

# Jordan Times

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## Spain, U.S. to discuss troop cuts

MADRID (R) — Spain will discuss cuts in the number of U.S. troops on its territory next May following a referendum vote to stay in NATO, officials said here on Friday. They said Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez would discuss the issue with Secretary of State George Shultz on May 27 in Washington during a bi-annual meeting of the joint commission set up under a bilateral friendship treaty. The United States agreed last year to start in the first half of this year talks on gradual cuts in the 12,500 U.S. troops stationed at three air bases and a naval base in Spain. Spanish voters approved plans last Wednesday to keep Spain in NATO while seeking U.S. troop cuts, remaining free of nuclear weapons and outside the alliance's military structure. (See page 8). Stock prices on the Madrid bourse soared 4.14 points on Friday as the business community continued to rejoice over the government's referendum victory.

## Differences remain in Afghan talks

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan and Pakistan remain far apart on a number of major issues on ending the Afghan war, but a settlement is possible, a U.N. envoy was quoted on Friday as saying. The Associated Press of Pakistan, the semi-official national news agency, quoted United Nations Under-Secretary-General Diego Cordovez as saying in an interview that his efforts to overcome an impasse in talks on the Afghan crisis were "as usual moving very slowly." Mr. Cordovez is on a shuttle mission between Islamabad and Kabul to try to resolve a dispute over the format of U.N. talks to find a political solution to end the Afghan crisis. Pakistan and Afghanistan have been holding indirect talks in Geneva since 1981 on a possible settlement, with Mr. Cordovez going between the two delegations in the so-called "proximity negotiations."

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## Assad to visit Poland

WARSAW (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad of Syria has accepted an invitation from Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski to visit Poland, the news agency PAP reported from Damascus. PAP did not say when the trip would take place and a Polish government official in Warsaw said on Friday the dates would be set through diplomatic channels. PAP said General Jaruzelski's invitation was conveyed to the Syrian leader in Damascus by Tadeusz Szulchowski, who led a delegation from Poland's United Peasants Party to the Sixth Congress of the Union of Syrian Peasants.

## Canadian foreign minister due here

AMMAN (Petra) — Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark is due here during the first half of April on an official visit to Jordan as part of a tour of Middle East countries. Mr. Clark is scheduled to meet with a number of Jordanian officials to discuss issues of common interest to the two countries besides major world topics.

## Chinese president arrives in Egypt

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — Chinese President Li Xianmin arrived here on Friday to begin a 10-day visit to Egypt, the first to this country by a Chinese head of state since the Communists came to power there in 1949. Mr. Li was greeted on his arrival from Colombo, Sri Lanka, by local officials. The Chinese president will spend three days here on a private visit before beginning the official portion of the trip Monday in Cairo. He is scheduled to confer with President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday and attend a joint session of parliament and the government advisory council on Wednesday as part of the week-long official visit.

## Moscow names new U.N. envoy

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has appointed Yuri Dubinin, formerly ambassador to Spain, as its new permanent representative at the United Nations. TASS news agency announced Friday. It said Mr. Dubinin, 55, would replace Oleg Troyanovsky, 66, who had been "relieved of his duties in connection with his transfer to other work." Mr. Dubinin would also become Moscow's representative on the United Nations Security Council according to the appointment made by the Supreme Soviet, TASS said.

## Howe to visit India, Pakistan

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will begin a tour of India and Pakistan at the end of March for talks which will include discussions on Afghanistan. The Foreign Office said Friday. The visit to India, from March 30 to April 2, and to Pakistan, from April 2 to April 5, will take place at the invitation of the foreign ministers of the two countries. The Foreign Office said the visit would concentrate on regional issues and on the situation in Afghanistan. While in Pakistan, Mr. Howe will visit Peshawar, the base of Afghan rebel leaders.

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## Islamic Jihad gives ultimatum to France

### Video film shows 3 hostages alive

BEIRUT (R) — Extremists holding French hostages in Lebanon have issued a final ultimatum to France and released a video film in which three captives appeal movingly to the French people to help save their lives.

"We hold the French government responsible for any delay in answering our conditions and this will be the last chance," said a statement delivered Thursday night with the film by the Islamic Jihad (holy war) group to a television agency here. The black-and-white film lasted six-and-a-half minutes and showed diplomats Marcel Fontaine and Marcel Carton, and finally journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, bearded and haggard. They each read from prepared statements.

"For me it is hard, very hard. One year soon and nothing has happened. Who will get me out of here?" said Mr. Fontaine. "I implore the French (people) to help us, to do everything possible to get us out of here as soon as possible."

Islamic Jihad has linked the hostages' freedom to French support for Iraq in the Gulf war and the jailing of five men who tried to kill former Iranian Premier Shapour Bakhtiar.

Meanwhile Lebanese-born French mediator Razah Raad arrived in Damascus Thursday night after spending three days in Beirut's Shiite suburbs in a bid to secure the release of nine French citizens missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

He told the Beirut newspaper An Nahar in Damascus that he had achieved progress on unspecified proposals he had brought with him, but did not give details. "The important thing is that tension has been eased," said Dr. Raad, on a semi-official mission to free the hostages.

Islamic Jihad announced the "execution" of Arabist researcher Michel Seurat, one of the nine, last

Sunday. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein pardoned the pair on Wednesday in a move seen as easing tension in the hostage crisis. French embassy Vice-Consul Fontaine, 43, and embassy attaché Carton, 62, were kidnapped near the embassy in Beirut on March 22 last year. Mr. Kauffmann, 42, was seized with Mr. Seurat shortly after they arrived at Beirut airport last May 22.

The ninth missing French national is Lebanese-born Florence Raad, 30, no relation to the mediator, who also disappeared in May last year. She was apparently seized by a man seeking the release of his two missing sisters as part of the general anarchy in Lebanon.

The latest Islamic Jihad statement said: "The French government is quite aware of our precise and well-defined demands. We reiterate that our demands are clearly and precisely known... we are not asking for any ransom and we are not slave-holders."

Mr. Carton was the second hostage to appear on the film and he indicated it had been made within the last four days.

"My dear wife Denise, my dear children, my little Denise, I don't give you my birthday greetings on March 10 with my own voice

(Continued on page 3)

## Unknown group claims abduction of television crew

BEIRUT (R) — A group calling itself the "Revolutionary Justice Organisation" on Friday claimed responsibility for seizing a four-man French television crew in Beirut last Saturday. The previously unknown Revolutionary Justice Organisation said it kidnapped the crew of the French Antenne-2 network "as a warning to France and in the hope that the French people will... stop any (French) military or political intervention in Lebanon." The statement came with photographs of the identity cards of cameraman Georges Hansen, 45, and technician Jean-Louis Norandin, 34. Also missing are correspondent Philippe Rochot, 40, and soundman Aurel Cornes, 54. The four were seized at gunpoint as they returned from filming a rally of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) in Beirut's suburbs.

## World leaders to attend Palme funeral; suspect under questioning

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Only the police and not the army will be used to protect the 100 world leaders attending Saturday's funeral of assassinated Prime Minister Olof Palme although the gathering of dignitaries is unprecedented for the Swedish capital.

Security arrangements in this city of one million people will be left to 1,500 uniformed police, 200 security men and an undisclosed number of plainclothes detectives, police said.

With such names as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, French President Francois Mitterrand and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the mourners' list, the funeral will be a severe test for a police force in the Stockholm region numbering no more than 2,700.

"We're not worried but we're alert," police inspector Leif Halberg told Reuters. "Security is extremely well planned."

Military officials said troops were never deployed in Sweden for strictly civilian events.

"It's a pretty unique thing about Sweden," Defence Staff spokesman Jan Thinninger said. "The armed forces are there to defend the country against threats from a foreign power, not to be used against private citizens."

Mr. Ryzhkov has offered to meet Mr. Shultz at the funeral. Mr. Ryzhkov, making his first trip to the West since his appointment last year, said on arrival at Stockholm airport: "If there is any desire on the part of Shultz, we will meet."

Meanwhile, police were still holding the first suspect arrested in the hunt for the killer of Palme, a man described by his defence attorneys as an anti-communist Swede from a religious family.

The man, whose identity was withheld by both investigators and lawyers, was not charged and his

attorneys predicted his release. As far as I know he is still in police custody and I presume he is being questioned Friday. That was the reason for arresting him," said police spokesman Leif Halberg.

Police said earlier that their investigation was continuing and they hoped for additional arrests.

Neither attorneys nor police identified the man, but the defence lawyer described him as about 35, from the Stockholm area, in an "intellectual" job and with no record of crime or violence.

The lawyer said the man had apparently been arrested because he had been near the site of Mr. Palme's killing at the time of the shooting, had given police conflicting accounts of the night and had written notes on his political views which police could have found suspicious.

The man was arrested and taken into custody Wednesday night, police confirmed on Thursday. He was arrested and released after an earlier investigation, then arrested again after police searched his apartment and confiscated notes and "working material."

A rightist group, calling itself the European National Socialist Union (ENU), in a letter to the national news agency TT, has claimed the responsibility for the Palme killing, the news agency said Friday.

"We are behind the killing of Palme. German traitor Willy Brandt will be the next victim," the letter read.

Willy Brandt, a close friend of Mr. Palme, was earlier West German chancellor. The letter, mailed in Sweden, said that the ENU sentenced "Olof Palme to death at its annual conference at Berchtesgaden last September." It added the ENU leaders from 13 European nations and the United States participated at the meeting.

Berchtesgaden was the stronghold of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. TT, quoting one source within the security police, said neither the Swedish nor the West German police has any information on the group.

"ENU succeeded in the execution of Olof Palme Feb. 28 — next in turn is Willy Brandt, since a traitor within the ENU informed the Oslo police about our previous plans with Willy Brandt in Oslo on his Nobel Prize day some years ago... We feel confident that Willy Brandt will follow Olof Palme in very short time," the letter said.

The letter was signed "Heil Hitler. ENU central for the Scandinavian territories, Stockholm by H.H. Adler, a Scandinavian leader."

The Palme funeral on Saturday will prompt precautions highly unusual in a city considered one of the world's most placid until Mr. Palme's assassination. Police said that during the memorial service air space over Stockholm would be closed to traffic for the first time since a state visit by Soviet leader Nikolai Khrushchev more than 20 years ago.

Hospitals and ambulance services said they would be on full alert in the event of an attack. "This is absolutely the most massive effort we've ever had to make at such short notice," a health authority official told reporters.

Police said that most of the foreign leaders would stay in four foreign hotels made security arrangements more difficult. Marie Astrup, public relations manager at the Stockholm Sheraton, said more than 300 rooms at that hotel had been booked for delegations from 10 countries. Mr. Shultz and his aides among them.



His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday confers with U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Mark Goulding (centre) and his aide Jean-Claude Aime (Petra photo).

## Soviets renew appeal to U.S.

MOSCOW (R) — Senior Soviet officials on Friday appealed to the United States to join a Soviet halt to nuclear testing and rejected as nonsense American arguments about verifying compliance.

"We do not take pleasure in putting the United States in an embarrassing situation. We want to do business with them..." Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Komplexkov told a press conference.

Mr. Komplexkov, who heads the ministry department dealing with the United States, joined General Nikolai Chervov and other officials in amplifying a decision by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev to extend a Soviet moratorium on testing.

Responding to a call by leaders of six nations, Mr. Gorbachev said in a letter on Thursday that Moscow would maintain the halt begun last August until the United States carried out its next test.

In Washington, the White House said it remained opposed to a ban, citing the need to develop weapons and Soviet objections to adequate verification measures.

The Soviet officials on Friday repeated pledges by Mr. Gorbachev to allow stringent monitoring including on-site inspection. Nuclear expert Mikhail Sadoski said the American complaint was "out and out nonsense."

He said the United States ran 200 monitoring stations close to Soviet borders which could easily detect nuclear blasts. The Soviet Union has only 20 stations and "so far we have not missed a single test conducted abroad."

Mr. Komplexkov said a U.S. change of heart would be the best way to honour the memory of murdered Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, one of the six leaders who urged Moscow to continue its moratorium.

The other countries are India, Mexico, Greece, Tanzania and Argentina. "Everything now depends on the U.S.," he added.

Mr. Komplexkov, who is being tipped as a possible successor to Washington Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, repeated remarks by Mr. Gorbachev in his letter to the six on Thursday that the test halt had penalised Moscow both militarily and economically.

Western diplomats see the Soviet moratorium campaign as one of a series of moves by the Kremlin largely aimed at bringing pressure on President Reagan from world opinion ahead of the next summit with Mr. Gorbachev due this year.

The officials refused to be drawn on the issue of the date for the summit. Mr. Gorbachev implied in a speech last month he might not meet Mr. Reagan if he was not willing to agree on some disarmament measure.

He suggested a total test ban as an example. Mr. Komplexkov avoided a direct answer when he was asked whether he had been appointed to succeed Mr. Dobrynin, who is returning to Moscow to a senior Kremlin post.

## Iraqis retake area near Suleymaniye

BASRA (R) (Agencies) — Iraqi forces on Friday recaptured a key region in the northern sector of the Iran-Iraq war front northeast of the Iraqi provincial capital of Suleymaniye, an Iraqi military spokesman announced.

The spokesman said the Iraqi forces wiped out eight Iranian brigades in a counter-offensive in the Chawra region, 25 kilometres from Suleymaniye.

"This means that not a single Iranian soldier remains on Iraqi soil in the northern province," the spokesman said.

Parts of the predominantly Kurdish-populated Chawra region was occupied by the Iranians in a new offensive launched Feb. 24. Earlier in the day, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said that Iranian war planes bombed an Iraqi oil platform off the besieged Iranian-occupied port of Fao in the southern front.

Iraqi troops have been trying for more than a month to drive out Iranian troops entrenched in the disputed Gulf oil port of Fao on the southern peninsula.

Iraq announced on Thursday that two of its three columns advancing on Fao had linked together for a final advance to dislodge the

Iranians. Iraqi military communiques said that the push left thousands of Iranians dead "liberating an important part of the mainland."

Baghdad Radio reported on Friday that thousands of people in the capital and towns and villages throughout Iraq were celebrating Thursday's victory through street demonstrations in support of the army.

It added that Iraqi jets and helicopters resumed hammering the remnants of the Iranian forces left on the Fao Peninsula.

In Tehran, three long columns of women in black chador cloaks marched to the Iranian capital's Friday prayer session, displaying pictures of dead relatives but shouting slogans in support of "martyrdom," the government and the 3,000th day of the war with Iraq.

The columns took an hour to pass by in a march well-organised, like most government-sponsored events.

Earlier this month, Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini recommended that women undergo military training in case they had to go to the war front, and, indirectly, to boost the morale of front-line troops.

## Herut Party seeks to heal rift over leadership after violent convention

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Mediation efforts began on Friday to heal a rift in the right-wing Herut Party which party leaders warned could undermine its position in the coalition government led by Labour Party Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

A convention of Herut, the nucleus of the Likud bloc which controls half of Peres' cabinet, broke up in fistfights and recriminations on Thursday when Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir failed to quell a mutiny against his party leadership.

Shamir was challenged by an alliance of former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon and Deputy Premier David Levy.

Under a power-sharing agreement with Peres, Shamir is due to become prime minister next October, mid-way through the 50-month term of the coalition formed in September 1984.

Peres is under mounting pressure from his own party to break the agreement with Shamir on the pretext that the Likud has blocked opportunities to start Arab-Israeli peace talks and has hamstringing Peres' economic recovery plan.

Yoram Aridor, a former Herut finance minister, said the internal dissension threatened to neutralise the party's leaders and "leave us no candidates who can take the premiership. We will have three candidates competing for the leadership of the opposition."

Aridor told Israel army radio that he had begun holding contacts with the three groups to urge them "to make up with each other and act together."

The battle on the convention floor was for control of the party machine and for positions that will be decisive in choosing the next candidates for prime minister and parliament seats.

Shamir suffered a bitter blow when the party broke up the violent annual convention without endorsing him as leader. Quivering with anger, Shamir

was forced off the stage by chanting opponents. The convention adjourned in pandemonium.

Shamir accused Levy of being a liar "driven by megalomania" and of turning the convention into a circus.

In a television interview, Levy, a Moroccan immigrant supported by underprivileged Sephardim (Oriental Jews), accused Shamir of undemocratic practices and declined to say whether Shamir was fit to be prime minister.

Parliamentarian Uzi Baram, secretary general of the Labour Party, cast doubt on Shamir's ability to rule.

"He is supposed to take over the government of a unified country at a time when he has problems of legitimacy in his own party," Baram told reporters.

Israel Radio said Peres intended to honour the rotation agreement despite Labour Party fears about banding the leadership to divided rightwingers.

## 'Marcos used money to ensure victory'

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine authorities said on Friday that deposed President Ferdinand Marcos may have used financial trickery to bankroll his reelection 18 days before he fled into exile.

Audit Commissioner Teofisto Guingona told reporters the former general manager of Manila airport withdrew 55 million pesos (\$2.5 million) in cash just before the Feb. 7 presidential election and the money could not be traced.

In Honolulu, a judge temporarily barred the transfer to Congress or any other agency the documents Mr. Marcos carried to Hawaii after fleeing his Malacañang Palace on Feb. 25.

The restraining order was sought in a suit filed by Colonel Ramon Azurin, a Marcos aide, and Gregorio Araneta, Mr. Mar-

cos' son-in-law. In Singapore, diplomatic sources told Reuters Mr. Marcos had indicated he wanted to leave Hawaii for Singapore and that U.S. authorities were interceding on his behalf.

Mr. Guingona said before the election that Mr. Marcos had asked each public corporation to raise 50 million pesos for his campaign against Corason Aquino.

Mr. Guingona, who is assigned to recover the hundreds of millions of dollars the Marcoses and their associates allegedly stashed abroad confirmed that the bank accounts of 54 people, including relatives of the Marcoses and former high officials, have been ordered frozen during the past three days.

At a news conference, Mr. Guingona showed reporters copies of

## King confers with Goulding

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein conferred on Thursday with U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Mark Goulding, United Nations assistant secretary-general for political affairs. Mr. Goulding, who succeeded Mr. Brian Urquhart, is currently on a tour in the Middle East to familiarise himself with the situation in the region.

Mr. Goulding, accompanied by his assistant for political affairs on the region Jean Claude Aime was received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and later met with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

They discussed Jordan's efforts to bring about a just and durable Middle East peace, and the United Nations' role in this endeavour.

They also reviewed the latest developments in the region, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Tayseer Touqan, Foreign Ministry secretary general. Upon arrival in Amman on Thursday morning Mr. Goulding said that his visit was part of a tour in the region for consultations and discussions with leaders of the region's countries on giving impetus to the peace process and for reactivating the United Nations call for a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

Mr. Goulding and Mr. Aime are expected to end their visit to Jordan on Saturday.

Mr. Goulding has already visited Lebanon and Israel. Concluding his tour of southern Lebanon regions patrolled by the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon (UNTF), Mr. Goulding said any withdrawal of the U.N. force could spell further violence and bloodshed.

However, the U.N. official's plea that UNFIL be allowed to fully perform its mandate by taking over areas now controlled by Israeli allied militiamen was rejected by Israeli leaders.

## Marcos used money to ensure victory

three cancelled airport manager's cheques that he said the manager himself had cashed on Jan. 16, 18 and 30.

Mr. Guingona also presented copies of memorandums issued by the official ordering the issuance of the cheques, supposedly because the construction company that built the airport was demanding payment in cash, and a letter from the company denying that it received the money.

Mr. Guingona said he would also be probing the finances of a \$2 billion atomic energy plant built by the U.S. firm Westinghouse to check accusations of kickbacks to Mr. Marcos.

The new Aquino government claims Mr. Marcos looted national treasures during his 20 years in power.



# Gunmen ambush army patrol in Beirut killing two soldiers

## Papal envoy leaves after peace mission

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunmen ambushed an army patrol taking 30 million Lebanese pounds (\$1.5 million) to the Central Bank in Muslim west Beirut Friday and killed two soldiers, police reported.

It was not immediately known if any of the money was stolen as the gunmen and soldiers shot it out in the street.

Gunfire erupted again when rival militia units raced to the scene and started shooting at each other and the army.

The hijack of the money reflected the anarchy that exists in militia-ruled west Beirut. Gun-fights, hold-ups and kidnappings happen daily.

Police reported the assailants in a black Mercedes raked the army jeep and a van carrying the money with machine gun fire in west Beirut's Batrieh neighbourhood at 9:30 a.m.

A 27-year-old army corporal was shot six times in the head and a 25-year-old private was shot 14 times. Both were Muslims, police said.

Soldiers riding shotgun in the pickup returned fire, but the assailants escaped, police added.

The army sent an armoured patrol to the scene while a joint force of Druze and Shiite Muslim militiamen raced in.

Police said a shootout developed between the two groups as each tried to take charge of the investigation into the attempted robbery, sending onlookers and pedestrians scurrying for shelter.

At least one woman was wounded in the clash. It was halted by a coordination committee made up of Muslim army units and the principal militias who control west Beirut, police added.

Police said a Christian physician was wounded in east Beirut as Falangist and opposition militia snipers duelled across the Green Line that slices the capital into two sectors.

Heavy fighting between Falangist units of the army and Syrian-backed militias erupted around midday in the central mountains overlooking Falangist President Amin Gemayel's hometown of Bikfaya.

Police said one soldier was killed and another wounded. The troops are defending Bikfaya, 16 kilometres north east of Beirut in the Falangist heartland. Fighting flared on that front daily.

The area became a flashpoint in Lebanon's 11-year-old civil war after Mr. Gemayel scuttled Syrian-backed peace pact on Jan. 15. The accord was signed by Lebanon's three most powerful militias in Damascus on Dec. 28.

In South Lebanon, security sources said snipers in hilltop positions manned by Israeli troops and militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) fired on a cluster of Shiite villages around the market town of Nahayeh.

A 75-year-old woman was wounded in the village of Kfar Rumman, the sources said. Her right hand was amputated in Nab-

atiyeh's hospital, they added.

In west Beirut's suburban cite sportive neighbourhood, army experts detonated an unexploded 250-kilogramme rocket fired by an Israeli F-15 fighter-bomber during the early days of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, police reported.

The district at the time was a stronghold of Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat.

Pope John Paul II's special envoy, Monsignor Achille Silvestrini, flew for the Vatican Friday at the end of a six-day mission aimed at reviving Syrian-sponsored peace efforts in this devastated country.

Silvestrini, the Holy See's foreign affairs expert, left by helicopter from Bkerik, seat of the Maronite Catholic patriarch, for Cyprus. From there he will fly on to Rome.

Another Vatican emissary, Monsignor Luigi Giatti, who accompanied Silvestrini on his mission, stayed behind.

He and the papal nuncio, Monsignor Luciano Angeloni, were expected to hold further contacts among Lebanon's spiritual leaders in a bid to cool a campaign by Syrian-backed factions seeking the ouster of President Amin Gemayel, a Maronite Catholic.

Angeloni accompanied Silvestrini on the helicopter trip to Larnaca, Cyprus, and flew back to Beirut aboard the army craft.

During his trip, Silvestrini spent two days in Damascus where he reportedly tried to convince Syrian leaders to end a two-month-old boycott of the Lebanese president.

The strain followed a bloody crackdown by Mr. Gemayel's Falangist allies on pro-Syrian rivals headed by Elie Hobeika.

Hobeika had signed a Syrian-backed peace accord with Druze chieftain Walid Junblatt and Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri.

Mr. Gemayel vetoed the armistice. He contended it made too many concessions to Muslims and undercut Falangists' traditional domination of power.

Opposition radio stations in Beirut criticised Silvestrini for failing to meet with Mr. Berri and Mr. Junblatt, Lebanon's two strongest opposition militia chieftains, during his trip.

He only met in west Beirut with Sunni Muslim Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled; Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, deputy chairman of the Higher Shiite Council; and Sheikh Mohammad Abu Shakra, the Druze community's highest spiritual leader.

Silvestrini said in a statement Thursday night that his talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Assad, Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and For-

eign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, were "frank and comprehensive."

But he did not say whether he convinced the leaders to start talking to Mr. Gemayel again.

"I got the impression that President Assad listened with attention to what I had the honour of telling him," he said.

"I went to Damascus to sort of express the aspirations of the Lebanese people, mainly the Christians," he added.

Lebanon's Falangist leaders Wednesday staged a show of unity after a year of conflict over who should decide the fate of the embattled community. "We need political unity... and coordination between Christian political factions so that none may monopolise Christian decision-making," militia chief Samir Geagea told 1,000 fighters drawn up in an east Beirut football stadium.

Sharpshooters stood guard on the stadium roof and security men searched for bombs, as bandmen in busbies and red jackets helped mini-skirted drummer girls play in the guests of honour.

The celebrations were to mark the anniversary of last year's bloodless uprising in the "Lebanese Forces" militia to block President Amin Gemayel's policy of relying on Syria to broker an end to Lebanon's 11 years of civil war.

Geagea led the revolt, but two months later he was pushed aside by Elie Hobeika, who shocked many Falangists by declaring for the "Syrian option," renouncing ties with Israel and signing a peace pact with the opposition militias in Damascus.

Foreign relations were the job of the Lebanese government, he added, reflecting widespread Falangist suspicion that the Syrian-backed militia pact undermined national sovereignty.

Falangist leaders have used the hull in peace efforts since the pact collapsed to patch up their own differences and work towards a consensus under the patronage of the Maronite Church.

It is for us Lebanese to decide among ourselves how to live in free understanding and close relations," Geagea said.

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In mid-January, the "Lebanese Forces" switched direction for a third time when Geagea linked up with Mr. Gemayel to oust Hobeika in bloody street fighting that cost scores of lives.

"We reject any tutelage over U.S. We know how to run our affairs. No one can impose agreements on us," Geagea declared Wednesday, adding that Lebanon had always been a target for invaders and the envy of its neighbours.

Geagea, 34, was flanked by several former political rivals — Elie Karam and Joseph Hashem of the pro-Gemayel Falangist Party, and ex-President Camille Chamoun and his son Dany.

Geagea called for an immediate end to hostilities with opposition militias "without intolerance or extremism" as a prelude to dialogue.

Syria's allies in Lebanon say the accord they signed with Hobeika last December remains the only basis for a lasting peace and have boycotted Mr. Gemayel for his part in scuttling it.

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## Shultz: Saudi arms sale to go ahead

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz has said the administration plans to press ahead with a proposed \$354 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia despite a planned congressional attempt to block the missile package.

President Reagan sent Congress a 20-day advance notification of the sale on Tuesday and Senator Alan Cranston, a California Democrat and leading Israel supporter in the Senate, said he would move to block the sale if the administration followed through with a formal notification.

But Mr. Shultz told a congressional hearing: "We will present (to Congress), when it comes time for formal notification, a full statement on the Saudi arms package."

Once that notification has been received, Congress has 30 working days to consider the proposal and decide whether to block the sale by passing joint resolutions of disapproval in both the House and Senate.

Sen. Cranston and other congressional opponents of the arms sale said they hoped the prospect of a second embarrassing defeat over an arms sale to an Arab country might cause the administration to reconsider the request.

Last month, the administration backed away — in the face of congressional opposition — from a plan to sell Jordan \$1.9 billion worth of advanced planes.

Legislators opposed to the \$354-million sale of advanced anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles cited Saudi Arabia's support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and charge that country has done little to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Shultz disagreed, telling the panel: "I believe the Saudis have contributed significantly to the peace process" and to stability in the volatile Gulf region where the Iran-Iraq conflict has raged since 1980.

But, when pressed for examples, he said: "I don't want to violate their own pattern of operations by being more specific."

Senator Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, shot back: "You say it's been done quietly... it's been inaudible as far as this senator is concerned."

The issue of Saudi Arabia's contribution to the currently stalled effort to negotiate an end to the Israel-Arab conflict will be a key factor in the debate over whether to allow the missile sale to go through.

It also will be instrumental later this year when the administration is scheduled to deliver eight advanced AWACS early warning radar planes to Saudi Arabia.

Sen. Cranston has promised to fight that deal as well.

But Mr. Shultz said Thursday that U.S. strategic concerns in the region had to take precedence over the peace process. "The sale... is outlined primarily to the peace process, it is linked to our strategic interests in the Gulf," he said.

## Egypt, U.S. 'disagree on Libya'

CAIRO (AP) — Relations between the United States and Egypt have improved since last year's Italian ship hijacking, but the two countries still differ on Libya, terrorism and the PLO, an editor close to President Hosni Mubarak wrote Friday.

Relations between the two countries suffered a setback last October when U.S. jets intercepted an Egyptian plane carrying three hijackers of the Achille Lauro and forced it to Sicily where the gunmen were arrested.

Before the Egyptian plane left Cairo, Mr. Mubarak claimed the gunmen had already departed the country under a deal negotiated by Egypt in return for the release of the passengers.

Later, Mr. Mubarak said he wanted to hand the hijackers over to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat for trial.

In a commentary in the state-owned daily Al-Ahram, chief editor Ibrahim Lahoud said U.S.-Egyptian relations "are back to normal."

"I can say that the United States shows greater understanding of the independence of Egypt's will," said Mr. Nafeh. His editorial opinions are known to reflect those of President Mubarak.

Despite the improvement, Mr. Nafeh said Egypt would not support any American retaliatory strike against Libya. President Ronald Reagan has accused Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi of a role in last December's terrorist attacks on airports in Rome and Vienna.

He said that while the United States accuses Mr. Arafat of fostering terrorism, "Egypt regards him as the legitimate leader of the Palestinian people who represents their aspirations and hopes."

Mr. Nafeh said both countries reject terrorism. But he said Egypt believes terrorism can be eliminated only by restoring Palestinian rights and "removing social injustice" and not by "special anti-terror units, by fleet movements and by air exercises."

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## Britain concerned over Gulf war

BAHRAIN (R) — Britain is deeply concerned over the recent extension of Gulf war fighting and the possible threat to Kuwait, Foreign Office Minister Timothy Renton has said.

He had talks with the Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa on the first leg of a visit to several Arab Gulf countries.

"We are deeply concerned about this war... I discussed what we can do to end this war in light of our friendly relations with Gulf countries," he told a news conference.

"Iran appears to have been calling Kuwait's attention to its dangerous position. It is not difficult to get involved in the war..." he said.

Iran last month seized part of Iraq's southern Fao peninsula within sight of Kuwait's north east border, and the emirate put its armed forces of 13,000 on alert.

Mr. Renton, minister of state for foreign affairs reiterated a Feb. 25 call by the European Community (EC) for both Iraq and Iran to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring countries.

He said his talks here also dealt with the Middle East peace process and he reiterated Britain's support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Although Britain wanted the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to play a part in any peace negotiations, he said, "we don't describe them as the only voice of the Palestinians."

"We want to encourage moderate Palestinians, be they PLO or not, to join peace talks," he said.

Zia: No victor in Gulf war

Meanwhile Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia ul Haq was Thursday quoted as saying an Iranian victory in the Gulf war would destabilise the region, but that there could be no victor.

In an interview in Islamabad with Bahrain's Gulf Daily News, Gen. Zia said he was satisfied with the progress of Pakistan's moves towards full democracy, while relations with India were also improving. He also reiterated his unwavering opposition to the Soviet-backed regime in Afghanistan.

Gen. Zia said Pakistan remained neutral in the 5½-year Gulf conflict but its mediation efforts had failed to bring Iran to the negotiating table.

"We found that Iraq is much more



## Jordan, China sign accord on cultural exchange cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and China have signed an executive programme to implement a bilateral cultural agreement over the coming three years. Under the agreement, both sides pledge to exchange books and other cultural publications, to cooperate in organising book and art exhibitions, to exchange expertise and visits by specialists employed in cultural services and to offer each other scholarships for students to study in Chinese and Jordanian universities.

The programme calls for encouraging the exchange of radio

and television material such as news and other programmes and provides for concluding an agreement between the national news agencies of both countries. The two countries will also cooperate in sports affairs and will exchange expertise in carrying out social, health and scientific activities and in developing local communities.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Ziyad Fariz, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, and the director general of the cultural exchange service in the People's Republic of China.

## FZC delegation return from week-long visit to China

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Free Zones Corporation (FZC) has returned to Amman at the end of a week-long visit to China and talks on bilateral cooperation in benefiting from free zone services.

The delegation was led by FZC Director General Yassin Al Kayed who said that the visit presented the team with the chance to examine China's experiments in free zones corporations and their contribution towards bolstering the national economy. Talks with senior government officials at the Chinese Foreign and Economy Ministries covered Jordanian-

Chinese economic and trade relations, Mr. Kayed said.

He continued that particular attention was given to ways of promoting the Jordanian Free Zones Corporation and means of benefiting from China's expertise and on exchanging visits of officials from both sides to discuss cooperation.

China, Mr. Kayed pointed out, has three main free industrial zones which, he said, are contributing towards attracting foreign capital to China and consequently helping to create jobs for more people.

## Khatib urges travel agents to develop marketing strategies

AMMAN (Petra) — The government will grant incentives to travel and tourist agencies in Jordan and will bolster their endeavours to develop tourism in order to support the national economy, Minister of Information, Tourism and Antiquities, Mohammad Al Khatib said here Thursday. He said that his ministry has already embarked on a new procedure to market Jordan abroad through participating in various tourist exhibitions.

Addressing a general meeting of the Jordan Travel Agents Association (JTAA), the minister said the tourism sector plays a vital role in Jordan's economic development and that the activities of travel agents are part of the cultural, social and political process designed to enhance Jordan's

Jordan a necessity if the process is to be a success. The meeting, held at the Jerusalem Melia Hotel in Amman, discussed a general report on JTAA's activities and its financial budget for the coming year.

JTAA President Yasser Abul Sa'oud spoke at the meeting and outlined the association's development, activities and commitments.

The work and responsibility of travel agents in Jordan has increased lately due to the involvement in transport networks, inter-Arab cooperation in tourism and new techniques in marketing tourist attractions internally and abroad, Mr. Abul Sa'oud said.

After the meeting, the minister distributed diplomas to 20 graduates of the JTAA tourist vocational training centre. The JTAA was established in 1965 and groups 170 travel and tourist agencies in the Kingdom.

## Ministry takes steps to promote tourism, improve facilities

By Nidal Zayadin  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is no surprise to those who know Jordan that tourism is one of the Kingdom's fastest growing industries. Jordan, with its historical landmarks and its diversity of natural beauty is a potentially major attraction and could be of even greater importance to the country by supporting the national economy and attracting local and foreign capital. The tourism sector also contributes towards social and economic development in Jordan.

However, tourism is a fluctuating source of income, depending as it does on the prevailing political and economic situation. Due to various world economic and political factors, the tourism sector in Jordan, as in many other countries, has been in recession since the early eighties. This recession has prompted the intensification of efforts and campaigns on the part of the Ministry of Tourism in order to reactivate marketing strategies especially in domestic tourism.

Director of the newly established tourist information section at the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Majed Mahafzah, said that the process of activating and promoting domestic tourism is not the sole responsibility of the ministry but rather it needs collective effort in which all sectors should shoulder their responsibilities. Mr. Mahafzah added that at the top of priorities in marketing tourism is

the promotion of public awareness about the historical, economic and cultural importance of the ancient sites and landmarks in the country.

### New plans and projects

Speaking about the ministry's plans and projects to promote domestic tourism, Mr. Mahafzah pointed out that the ministry has adopted a new five-year development plan for 1986-1990. He said that among the major projects included in this plan are:

— Setting up tourist resthouses in Um Qais in Irbid, Tabqat Fahel in the Jordan Valley and in Ajloun in addition to other sites in order to provide services to local visitors and foreign tourists.

— Setting up a hotel for therapeutic tourism at the east beach of the Dead Sea in Al Zarrah site to utilise the unique characteristics of the water there for the treatment of skin diseases and rheumatism.

— Providing basic services to all sites, especially desert palaces and castles.

— Setting up an integrated tourist village in Wadi Rum in the south to utilise this area for desert sports, mountaineering and sail crafts.

— Introducing a horse and carriage service in Petra within the few coming months. At present tourists visiting the city travel on foot or on horseback into the city.

He added that the ministry also



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday confers with Mr. Mahmoud Al Zo'bi, speaker of the Syrian People's Council at the Royal Court. The King also

received heads of other Arab parliamentary delegations who took part in a two-day conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union (Petra photo).

## Fire aboard Jordanian ferry will not affect operations on sea link, Obeid says

AQABA (Petra) — Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid has said that cooperation between the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company (JNL) and the Egyptian navigation company includes the transportation of passengers via the sea link between Nuweibe in Sinai and Aqaba. He also said that the fire aboard a Jordanian ferry boat, which sustained damages last week while about to start a voyage from Nuweibe to Aqaba, will not affect the work of this sea link.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, in Aqaba, the minister said that the fire which engulfed the Jordanian ferry will not affect operations on the route and he said that the Jordanian government will make available a modern ferry boat to operate on this line. He added that the fire did not affect the transport of passengers as another ferry, Al Mabrouka, replaced the ferry which was destroyed.

The JNL, the minister added, is now working on a plan to guarantee the transport of passengers via this line by purchasing modern ships within a marine agreement with the Egyptian side.

### Handling fees

The minister pointed out that the Ports Corporation board of directors has decided to reduce the handling fees for goods im-

ported via Aqaba port in order to enable the corporation to work in accordance with commercial and competitive basis and to offer incentives for the transport of goods on the route. The decision also aims to guarantee the continuing operation of the Jordan and Arab fleets of trucks which transport goods via Aqaba port, the minister added. He pointed out that the transport of goods via the port of Aqaba this year is expected to reach 16.5 million tonnes compared to 14.5 million tonnes over the past year.

Referring to port training centres, the minister pointed out that the Ports Corporation board of directors has decided to set up a regional centre for marine training at the port of Aqaba and will also develop the present local centre to make available qualified cadres and practical experience in this

field. This will be done with the help of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Mr. Obeid said.

### Railway developments

The minister went on to review activities of the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) and said that the ARC board of directors, during a meeting held here last Tuesday, discussed all the issues related to improving services on the railway. The board has approved the purchase of 90 new wagons at a cost of JD 1,050,000 and also agreed to renew 100 kilometres of line, at a cost of JD 6 million to increase the quantities of goods transported via the railway to 2,700,000 tonnes this year, an increase of 300,000 tonnes over last year, the minister concluded.

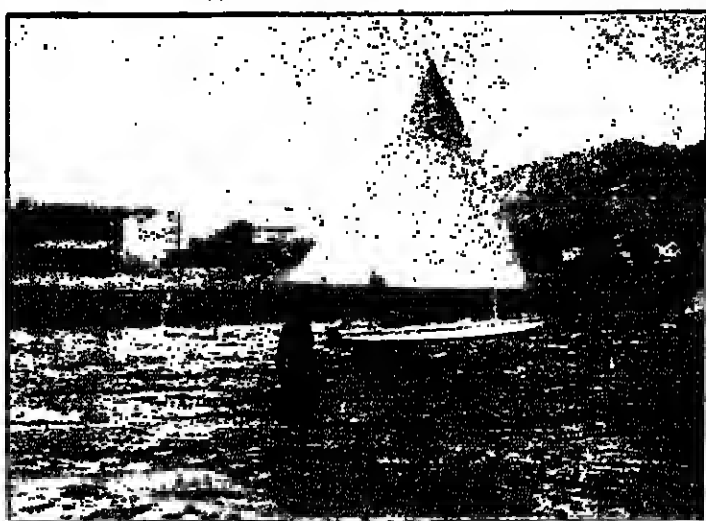
## Police, public security units hold training exercises

AMMAN (Petra) — Several police and security units Thursday took part in comprehensive advanced exercises on different types of terrain and at various locations watched by Public Security Director (PSD) Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali and other senior public security officers.

Addressing the units after the training exercises, Lt.-Gen. Maj-

ali said that the department of public security is keen to provide the best training for its men to ensure stability and security for the public and citizens of Jordan.

The exercises including target shooting, jumping from towers, handling military equipment, mobilising for assault and other duties.



The south of Jordan has much to attract tourists; the good weather and facilities of Aqaba — Photo: Ministry of Tourism

tures on various topics related to tourism to promote domestic tourism.

The section will also publish advertisements in newspapers, magazines and the media in countries where there is potential to attract foreign tourists to Jordan, such as the Gulf states, the two Americas in order to market and highlight the Jordan's services and facilities.

### A trip for journalists

Also within the framework of its continuing efforts to boost domestic tourism, the ministry recently organised a four-day trip for representatives of the local news pa-

pers and mass media. The trip included tours and visits to Petra, Aqaba and Wadi Rum. Mr. Mahafzah pointed out that the trip aimed at familiarising the local press and mass media with the historical sites in the country and with the services and facilities available at these sites. He also said that it also involved them in the national awareness campaign being launched by the ministry to promote domestic tourism. He said that the activation of domestic tourism is a national responsibility in which every citizen should take part. The ministry will shortly organise a similar trip for representatives of the foreign press and media in Jordan Mr. Mahafzah added.

## HANBO chief arrives today

Mr. Soo Tai Chung, chairman of the board of directors of HANBO companies in South Korea will arrive in Amman Saturday on a short visit to Jordan.

During his visit, Mr. Chung will meet with a number of officials and visit the projects being carried out by the company in Jordan, such as King Talal Dam, Wadi Al Arab Dam, Yarmouk University and some projects for Jordan Valley Authority.

Mr. Chung is a leading economist in South Korea and owner of the largest consortium of companies in the field of construction, mines, industry and finance.

Mr. Chung has donated



\$1,000,000 from his own money towards financing a vocational training centre in the Jordan Valley.

## APU defines its position on Middle East issues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Fourth Conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) concluded its deliberations on Thursday after defining its position on the Palestine question, the Iran-Iraq war, the Lebanese crisis and inter-Arab relations.

APU President and Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akf Al Fayez said the conference stressed that the Palestinian problem "is the central cause of the Arab nation, and represents the soul of the Arab-Israeli conflict." Mr. Fayez said the conference agreed that all Arab resources should be put to the service of solidifying Arab rights in Palestine.

A resolution by the conference also called on Arab states to fulfil their financial commitments in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions, to enhance the steadfastness of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

On the situation in Lebanon, the conference praised the struggle of the Lebanese people and the Lebanese resistance in the south against the Israeli occupation. The conference, Mr. Fayez said, condemned the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and its continued bloody attacks on its cities and villages.

The conference called on Arab nations to increase their support for Lebanon to enable it to confront the Israeli occupation. The resolution called on the United Nations to work seriously towards the implementation of Security Council resolutions for the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Fayez said the conference issued a resolution on the Iran-Iraq war in which it condemned the latest Iranian assault on Iraqi territories and the recent escalation in the war which is draining human resources in both countries. The conference called for the withdrawal of Iranian forces from all Iraqi lands.

The conference called for the cessation of all hostilities and the withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognised borders and the establishment of a comprehensive, just and peaceful settlement through direct or indirect negotiations which guarantee the rights of both parties, their national sovereignty and the exchange of prisoners of war, in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Convention.

The conference expressed its deep appreciation for Iraq's positive response and agreement on all United Nations resolutions, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, and called on Iraq to accept these resolutions and the international and regional efforts.

### Arab-African relations

Mr. Fayez pointed out that the conference issued other resolution on strengthening Arab ties with African nations, and on steps to be taken to counter the threat of Israeli infiltration in Africa which they said is aimed at weakening Arab-African relations.

In line with the resolutions of previous APU conferences, this conference has decided to establish a committee comprising the president of the conference and four parliamentarians to follow up on the implementation of the conference's resolutions in coordination with Arab governments, with the aim of achieving Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

The committee includes in its membership parliamentarians from Kuwait, Tunis, the United Arab Emirates and the Yemen Arab Republic. The committee will meet soon to discuss its working plans.

The closing session of the conference convened at 10 p.m. Wednesday. The session, which ended at dawn on Thursday, heard two reports presented by the political committee and the committee on dialogue and parliamentary affairs.

A seminar held later Thursday, chaired by deputy Salmaan Qudus also discussed ways of achieving a united Arab parliament. The seminar called on Arab governments to encourage scientific research in this field. The seminar also urged Arab governments to ratify an agreement on establishing an Arab court of justice.

Cable of thanks to King  
At the conclusion of the con-

ference's deliberations, Mr. Fayez sent a cable of thanks to His Majesty King Hussein on behalf of the participants in the two-day conference. The cable thanked the King for supporting the Arab meeting and encouraging it.

They described the King's speech inaugurating the conference as an honest and sincere review of Arab causes on the regional and international levels. Mr. Fayez told the King in the cable that Arab parliamentarians have decided to consider his speech as a national document. "The Arab parliamentarians believe with you that any aggression against an Arab state is an aggression on the whole Arab nation," the cable read.

Delegations to the congress continued to leave on Friday. Representatives of parliaments and people's councils in Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, South Yemen and United Arab Emirates (UAE) voiced optimism that the recommendations adopted during the congress would be effectively implemented and that inter-Arab differences over certain issues would be healed.

In separate statements they gave to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the delegates described the adopted recommendations as clear and unanimously agreed upon.

Dr. Sa'ad Hammoudi, Speaker of the Iraqi National Council, said that the issues dealt with during the congress were of "paramount importance," especially the Palestinian cause, the Iran-Iraq war and the Lebanese civil war.

Dr. Ahmad Sa'adoun, speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament, termed the Amman congress as one of the most important conferences held by the APU with regard to the diversity of issues.

Participants in the congress spoke frankly about the importance and the role played by the APU on the both regional and international scenes. The deliberations also tackled negative aspects in the union and all disputable points were dealt with comprehensively and positively. Dr. Sa'adoun added.

Mr. Rabeh Beitati, speaker of the Algerian National Council, hailed the outcome of the congress and said it was up to Arab expectations.

## Islamic Jihad gives ultimatum to France

(Continued from page 1)

and I am very sad about that," he said.

"Soon it will be a one year we have been separated. I deeply wish an end to this trial... it is absolutely necessary that the French government takes a sympathetic interest in our fate and acts as soon as possible.

"It seems to me they (Islamic Jihad) want French policy in the Middle East to change... my health is good, but I am very depressed and very sad," Mr. Carton said.

Apparently referring to French naval manoeuvres in the Mediterranean, Islamic Jihad said "military parades by the French government will complicate the problem further."

The manoeuvres had been prolonged by 48 hours, sources close to the French Defence Ministry said Thursday, but there was no indication of the exact location of the squadron involved.

A radio station said on Thursday the aircraft carrier Foch and four warships were off the Lebanese coast.

Mr. Kauffmann, wearing a light-weight jacket and open-necked shirt, said every minute of captivity was a battle waged against anguish and despair.

"What is going on?... I feel abandoned... it should be said that it is not indignation we need but concrete gestures... all four of us were taken to prevent... the French being against the underprivileged," he said.

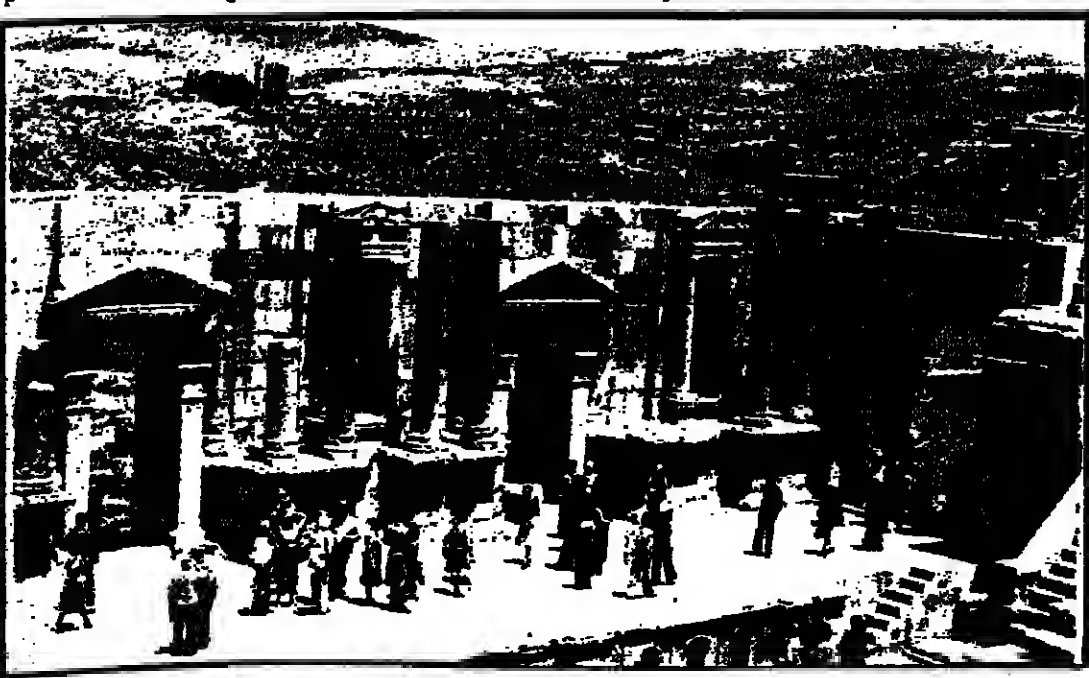
His reference to four hostages suggested Mr. Kauffmann was either unaware of Mr. Seurat's reported death or that Mr. Seurat was alive when the film was made.

French embassy officials told Reuters the body of a French military observer shot dead by a sniper near Beirut's "green line" battlefield was due to be flown home on Friday.

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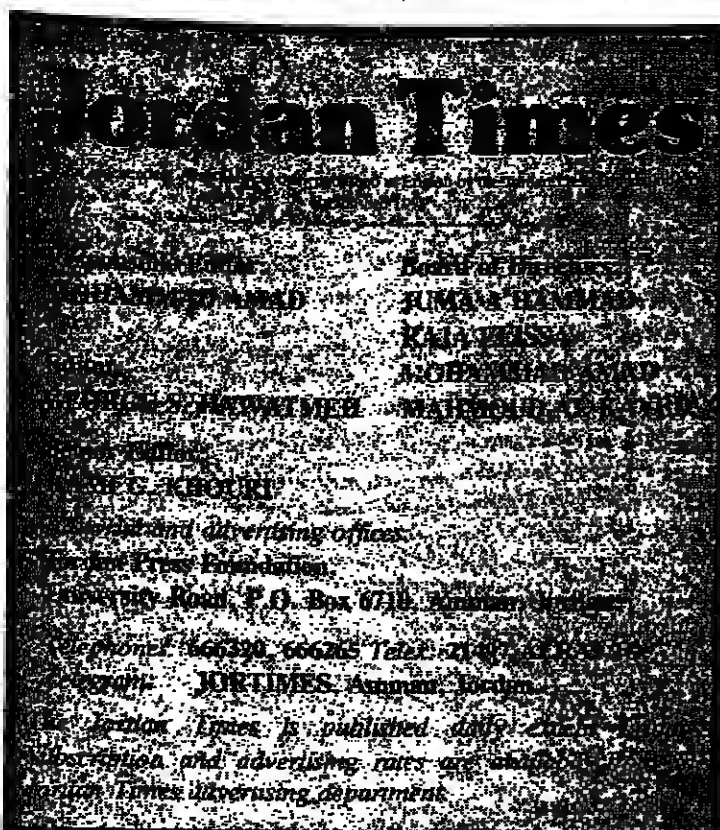
THE BRITISH AIRWAYS THEATRE AT THE JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL PRESENT  
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**PETER SALLIS**  
PETER DENYER - ROBIN KERMODE  
KARAN DAVID - SHAYUR MEHTA  
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The well-preserved and restored Roman monuments at Jerash (Photo: Ministry of Tourism).

July 1986





## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

## Al Ra'i: APU resolutions

IN a cable sent to King Hussein at the conclusion of the Arab Parliamentary conference in Amman representatives of the Arab nation voiced appreciation for his efforts and sacrifice for the Arab nation and his serving of its causes. The conference's final communiqué itself expressed the Arab people's aspirations and objectives with particular attention to the Palestine question and the rights of the Palestinian people. The communiqué condemned the American stand and called on Arab countries to honour their financial commitments to the Palestinian people. The parliamentarians voiced their backing for the Iraqi people in defending their territory and protecting the interests of the Arab nation at large. They called on all Arabs to mobilise their ranks behind Iraq and help its people to defend themselves against Iranian aggression. The communiqué also urged Arab countries to extend all possible help to the Lebanese people and help them to drive the Israeli invaders out of Lebanese territory. The communiqué has thus expressed the feelings not only of the parliamentarians but also the Arab people who they represent.

## Al Dustour: Manifestation of cohesion

AFTER three days of deliberations, the Arab parliamentarians issued a communiqué summing up the different topics they have been discussing in their meetings in Amman. The communiqué was a clear manifestation of the cohesion among the Arab people, represented through their parliamentarians at the meeting, and presented another evidence of the deep faith in the eventual unity of this nation. As for Palestine, the communiqué expressed the parliamentarians' keenness on enlisting all support and backing for the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their territory, and for this sake, the communiqué urged all countries to honour their commitments to this cause. The communiqué was careful to mention the just struggle of the Iraqi and Lebanese people against the Iranians and Israeli invaders and appealed to all Arabs to rally behind the Iraqi and Lebanese people to help them repel aggression.

## Sawt Al Shaab: National aspirations

THE contents of the final communiqué issued by Arab parliamentarians in Amman represent the main principles on which Arab countries' policies are based. Perhaps the most important issue discussed at the Arab Parliamentary Union's conference in Amman was the Palestine question and the delegates reiterated what most Arab countries have been calling for. They fully backed the rights of the Palestinian people's struggle for regaining their rights and their homeland and urged Arab states to bolster the Palestinians' steadfastness in the face of continued Israeli aggression and occupation and inhuman practices. Iraq, Lebanon were also discussed and the communiqué clearly referred to the just struggle of the Iraqi and Lebanese people; urged all Arabs to support such struggle which is designed to evict invaders harbouring ambitious designs in Arab territory.

Thursday's

## Al Ra'i: The King's warning

KING Hussein made a speech to the Arab Parliamentarians who met in Amman over the past three days urging them to hold a constructive dialogue and rid the Arab nation from the present state of weakness and disunity. He warned the Arabs against the dangers looming in the offing, and said that such dialogue is essential among the Arab states, and that Jordan would be ready to help. Jordan, he said, is extending its brotherly hand to all Arabs and is ready to start a dialogue with all, with the purpose of reaching a formula for joint action. The King referred to the trouble spots in South Sudan, Iraq and Lebanon and most of all stressed the need for joint action vis-à-vis Israel's challenge and continued occupation of Arab land. The King made it clear that no obstacles can stop the Arab brothers if they wish to meet frankly and discuss their positions and their views. Concerted Arab efforts, he said, should override all other considerations, for the sake of serving the higher national interests.

## Sawt Al Shaab: King pinpoints dangers

WE believe that joint Arab action is the cornerstone in dealings among Arab countries because without close solidarity and cooperation and agreement among Arab brothers there can be no hope for achieving victory on the Zionist enemy. King Hussein placed this fact before the Arab parliamentarians who met in Amman over the past three days, thus paving the way for the delegates to chart joint action for their nation. King Hussein was careful to pinpoint the danger which threatens the Arab nation at present and in the future, and called on the delegates to do what they can to mobilise Arab resources and wealth and build its military forces and a strategic balance that would deter the enemy from committing further acts of aggression on the Arab nation. King Hussein urged the delegates to help forge a true Arab struggle in the face of the nation's common enemies, and called on the Arabs to rally behind Iraq and Lebanon to help them drive out the invaders.

## Going for all for contras, Reagan risks getting nothing

By Carol Giacomo  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's apparent disinterest in accommodating congressional critics of his Nicaragua policy makes it increasingly likely his latest aid request for the "contra" guerrillas will fail completely.

Many lawmakers and their aides say his all-or-nothing line may be jeopardising a compromise deal that could be his only means of saving face.

"I think losing in an all-or-nothing vote damages the administration's hopes of getting a later compromise and it weakens our position in Central America," said senator James Sasser, Democrat of Tennessee.

Reagan has mounted an outspoken anti-Communist campaign to persuade Congress to approve \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million in non-lethal aid for the contras, who are fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

He says aiding the guerrillas is the only way to keep Cuba and the Soviet Union out of Central America.

But his critics say his approach is only drawing the United States closer to direct involvement in the war.

Congressional leaders have predicted the president's proposed 100-million-dollar package will lose when votes are cast next week, especially in the Democrat-dominated House.

Reagan has insisted on a straight yes-or-no vote, with no equivocating amendments, on his proposal — reflecting his "you're either with me or you're against me" strategy.

But a compromise plan could be introduced in the Republican-controlled Senate at the last moment to prevent an outright defeat, and various alternatives are being floated.



One version would have Congress place military aid to the rebels in a trust account for six months while negotiations are pursued. If talks were to fail, the military aid could be released by a congressional vote.

While many lawmakers from both parties are eager to forge a compromise with the White House, Reagan has resisted.

"The president is very firm on no compromise," said presidential spokesman Larry Speakes.

White House aides have said the reason for pressing forward with their highly unpopular proposal is to hold lawmakers accountable for what happens in Nicaragua.

Many Democrats, who form the bulk of the opposition on this issue, say the Republicans want to be able to blame them when Reagan's policy fails.

Reagan has adopted similar tactics on many major issues, including taxes, the MX nuclear mis-

siles and past votes on Nicaragua rebel aid. He digs in his heels and only moves to accommodate Congress when his back is against the wall.

This time, however, Reagan and his top aides have complicated the debate by angering many lawmakers with charges that those who vote against his Nicaragua policy or challenge it are un-American and aiding Communists.

The White House has also played games with the prospect of compromise, hinting at, then rejecting, accommodation.

Speakes last Tuesday rejected a report that administration officials were promoting a compromise linking congressional approval with pledges of a last-ditch diplomatic effort.

Under the plan, Reagan would send Congress a co-terminus letter in which he would promise not to send military aid for a specified period of time — perhaps 65 to 75 days — while U.S. and Latin American diplomats tried to open negotiations between the Sandinistas and the contras.

"It sounds to me like a trial balloon," said one senior Republican aide.

Sasser, who has tried to push a compromise with the White House, called the idea "totally unacceptable."

In order to win \$27 million in non-lethal aid for the rebels last year, Reagan at the 11th hour sent a letter to Congress promising bilateral negotiations with the Sandinistas "but no attempt was made... The administration didn't live up to the spirit of it," a Sasser aide told Reuters.

One Republican aide said: "The White House has created for itself a bit of a mess. They've burned a lot of bridges."

"The danger is this political game the White House is playing could backfire and they could end up with nothing."

## Extremes of left and right are likely losers in French poll

By Alan Philips  
Reuter

PARIS — When the votes are counted after Sunday's general election, leaders of parties at either end of France's political scale are likely to find they have lost out in a swing towards the mainstream.

Opinion polls say the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Georges Marchais, once the foremost power on the left but now overtaken by the Socialists, is heading for a further decline.

On the far right, forecasts show the popularity of the National Front, led by former paratrooper officer Jean-Marie Le Pen, has peaked after its spectacular breakthrough in 1984.

Some predict that Marchais may face the ignominy of seeing his party, which used to draw the votes of one in four Frenchmen, fall to 10 per cent of the vote, or just above the National Front.

Commentators say the two parties are victims of a small but significant move in France, traditionally split between left and right, towards consensus.

This has been underscored by the prospect of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand working with a conservative prime minister if, as the polls predict, the opposition alliance of the Gaullist RPR and centre-right UDF wins a majority in the National Assembly.

Both Marchais and Le Pen criticise such "cohabitation" between a Socialist president and the rightist opposition, but polls show Frenchmen largely support it.

Marchais, whose party joined the Socialists in their government in 1981 but later left, denounces what he sees as an attempt to lump the Communists and the right-wing together in the political wilderness.

"It seems there are acceptable parties — the Socialists and the right — and then there are Le Pen and the Communists," he said recently. "This is the worst insult that could be made to a Communist militant."

Neither party is going to disappear, and they will remain strong locally, particularly in the front's case in areas of high immigration where Le Pen's tough anti-immigrant and law and order stance finds supporters.

The front will have its first deputies elected to the National Assembly, but polls give it only from six to eight per cent of the vote, sharply down on the 11 per cent it polled in the 1984 European Parliament elections.

For the Communists, the situation looks more serious, with the party's support retreating to its traditional strongholds in heavy industries and in the "red belt" of working class Paris suburbs.

Though Marchais and Le Pen are sworn foes, commentators see several similarities between them.

Both are powerful speakers and like to come out fighting when criticised. Both face dissent within their own ranks over their personal style of leadership.

Marchais, a 65-year-old former metal worker, has kept an aggressively proletarian image, endearing him to the party's hard core but alienating younger voters.

During more than a decade and a half as party leader, he has lost to Mitterrand's Socialists in the struggle for the leftist vote. Many of the intellectuals who gave the party panache have drifted away or been expelled for speaking out of turn.

One of the dissidents remaining in the party, former spokesman Pierre Juquin, is calling for a modernisation of the party after the elections just as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has shaken up the Kremlin.

In the case of Le Pen, the dissent comes from his estranged wife Pierrette, a member of the rival National Opposition Front made up of disaffected former followers of her husband.

Le Pen, who spent more than 20 years on the fringes of political life before returning in a blaze of publicity after the Socialists took power, finds he is a victim of his own success.

## The diplomatic battle for winning Africa

By David Crary  
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya. — With tactics that sometimes mirror each other, Israel and its Arab rivals are waging a bitter duel for diplomatic superiority in sub-Saharan Africa.

Each side boasts of deep bonds with black Africans. Each offers the promise of material benefits. Each tries to foster mistrust of the other.

Israelis play upon African fears of terrorism and Islamic expansionism. Arabs depict Israel as an ally of South Africa and a tool of Western powers.

For now, the Arabs have a substantial edge, since most African countries broke ties with Israel following the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

But Israel is trying to turn the tide. In February, the Ivory Coast became the third African country to resume diplomatic relations with Israel, following Zaire and Liberia.

Three other countries — Swaziland, Malawi and Lesotho — never broke ties, and there has been speculation in Israel that Cameroon, Togo or possibly a group of West African nations might soon restore relations.

Israelis conduct development work, military training or business in 20 African countries, including several with no overt interest in resuming formal ties.

Kenya, which follows a generally pro-Western foreign policy but bows to Organisation of African Unity positions supporting Palestinian self-determination, exemplifies this phenomenon.

Short of restoring diplomatic relations with Israel, it allows vir-

tually every type of commercial and cultural contact.

Israeli architects and construction firms have produced several of Nairobi's major buildings and annual two-way trade exceeds \$10 million. Israel's El Al airline has weekly flights to and from Nairobi, and an Israeli interest section operates at the Danish embassy.

There is even a "Shalom Club" of Kenyans who have studied in Israel.

Elsewhere in Africa, contacts often are minimal and discreet. Some governments bar entry by Israeli passport holders.

But one Israeli development expert who has worked extensively in east and west Africa said it was inevitable that many African countries would soon restore relations with Israel.

"It is a process which is in motion," said the Israeli, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "No Arab pressure, no OAU pressure, no Soviet-bloc pressure can stop it."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's envoy to Kenya, Khairuddin Abdul Rahman, disagreed. "This bright picture that Israel is painting does not exist," he said in an interview.

He belittled Israel's gains in Zaire and Liberia, saying those countries were not well respected within Africa. And he contended the Ivory Coast restored ties with Israel because of high-level business connections, not public consensus.

Abdul Rahman said the United States is pressuring African leaders to reconcile with Israel, "but

it is not for Washington to decide. African countries have grown up and can decide for themselves."

In most of Africa, the PLO enjoys full diplomatic privileges, with its representatives treated as ambassadors. In Zimbabwe, for example, PLO envoy Ali Halimeh is regularly quoted in newspapers and interviewed on national television.

Most African leaders give strong verbal support to the PLO. But one Israeli who has dealt with some of them said many distrust Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi and worry that terrorism could reach their countries.

To illustrate his contention that the spectre of terrorism extends deep into Africa, the Israeli cited a recent Kenyan newspaper report that a caller claiming to represent a "Palestinian liberation movement" made two telephone bomb threats directed at Nairobi's airport and a hotel.

However, Abdul Rahman claimed the threats were a ruse, "an Israeli attempt to play a dirty game."

Last year, an Israeli foreign ministry official, Avi Primor, said one African leader had been threatened with assassination if he restored ties with Israel, and others were warned of Arab economic reprisals.

Israeli officials also say the Arabs failed to provide all the financial aid which African countries expected as a result of ostracising Israel.

There are conflicting assessments of Arab aid to black Africa, which the Arab League calculates at \$9.4 billion from 1973 through 1984.

Arab oil producers give Africa a larger share of their gross national product than do Western countries, but the aid hasn't offset African oil import bills.

Mobamed Sbarif Mobamad, the Arab League's ambassador in Kenya, said Arab countries provide the aid in a spirit of solidarity, not as a reward for specific political positions.

However, Arab aid to Zaire and Liberia was suspended after they restored relations with Israel.

Israel, born only a decade before Africa's independence era began, is admired for its military prowess, "anti-terrorism" expertise and skill at producing food under conditions as inhospitable as those in Africa.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir last month said Israel's 1985 exports to black Africa totaled \$100 million and Israeli companies engaged in projects worth \$500 million.

In mid-February, David Kimche, director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, visited Africa to discuss business deals, especially in Nigeria. Three weeks earlier, Nigeria's Anglican leader, Bishop J.A. Adetunji, urged resumed relations with Israel.

Abdul Rahman, on the other hand, said Africa and the Arab World have special bonds because both were dominated and divided by European powers.

And Israel admits that a perception of Israeli-South African cooperation aggravates its estrangement in Africa. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres pledged last year to intensify pressure on South Africa to dismantle apartheid.

## Singapore's quiet revolution

After 20 years of expansion, Singapore's economy needs to take a new direction, a report to the government says. Steven Butler, recently in the island, describes how this recommended "quiet revolution" may affect the economic thinking of Lee Kuan Yew, prime minister.

SINGAPORE is facing a quiet revolution. It has come in the disguise of a pedantic, 383-page report to the government that offers, for Singapore, some startling advice — that government dominance of the economy needs to be reduced, and that private business needs to be unleashed and spurred along.

The report, published in February, launched a hard-hitting attack on the economic orthodoxy which has become a trademark of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore, who has towered over this tiny tropical island state for its entire 26 years of independence.

Under Mr. Lee's firm leadership, the economy expanded by an average of 9 per cent annually for 20 years prior to 1984, earning Singapore an international fame which vastly outstripped its role in the world economy.

Yet last year, Singapore's great momentum of growth suddenly and unexpectedly expired. The economy shrank by 1.7 per cent, 90,000 jobs vanished, and the profits of foreign manufacturing firms, whose investments are vital for Singapore, plunged by 70 per cent.

The report concludes that Mr. Lee's favourite chestnuts — the high wage policy, high forced savings, grand government investments in industry, and lavish public construction projects — helped plunge Singapore into deep recession. And it recommends radical changes which will undo much of Mr. Lee's work and thereby set free the private sector.

The report is a watershed for Singapore because its assault on orthodoxy could, after a fashion, become policy.

On the other hand, there is con-

42 per cent rate of savings, the highest in the world. The government forced employers and employees each to contribute 25 per cent of wages to a government pension scheme, the central provident fund (CPF).

The government's near-monopoly over savings made plenty of money available for property development, an ingenious aspect of the CPF plan which has turned Singapore into a model city. But the CPF starved the private sector of capital. While construction spending grew by 24 per cent annually between 1981 and 1984, spending on machinery and other manufacturing equipment grew by just 3 per cent.

This intricate and interlocking web of bad news has forced Singapore's Economic Committee to recommend radical changes in policy.

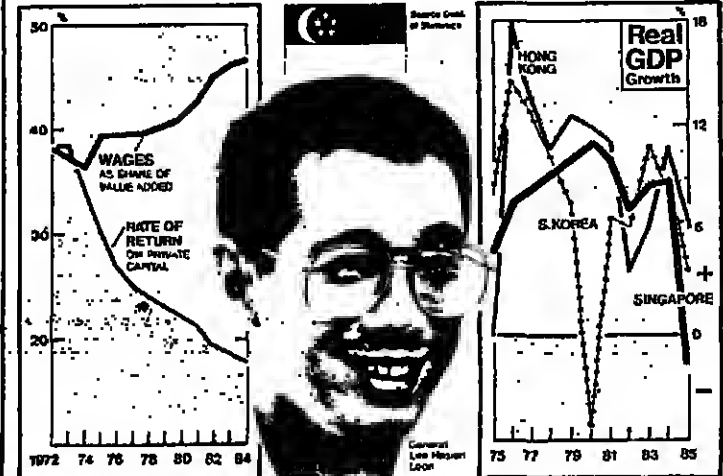
The committee has bitten the hardest until first with a painful and controversial proposal to cut the employer's contribution to the CPF by 15 per cent, a move the committee expects will cut wage costs by 12 per cent.

The cut will take a slice out of every Singaporean's pension and will cause immediate difficulties for many who use the pension to make instalment payments for housing.

If implemented, the CPF plan would represent a startling political reversal for Singapore. Only last August, after the economy had begun its slide, the Prime Minister said the CPF was the "last item" to touch.

The committee also calls for sharp cuts in corporate taxes, a wage freeze for two years and a plethora of detailed policy changes which touch on almost every aspect of the economy.

Even if the committee's recommendations are fully acted



considerable scepticism in the business community as to whether the reforms can be pushed through by the government and if they are whether they will not be reversed in two to three years. The report's call for a cut in corporate taxes from 40 per cent to 30 per cent, for example, has already been pared to 33 per cent by the deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong.

The report's other significance is that it marks the firm launching of a new generation of political leadership which has risen to prominence by reaching out to the public to build consensus, instead of preaching from on high about what is best for the nation.

Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong, the 34-year-old son of the Prime Minister, chaired the economic committee which drafted the report. His appearance in the autumn of 1984 as a candidate for parliament raised many eyebrows. Nepotism is an ancient Chinese custom, and the younger Lee had yet to prove himself.

Now, riding high in the well-publicised role of Committee Chairman, he has emerged as a man of political substance — the very man, and perhaps the only man, who can gracefully overturn his father's proud legacy of powerful government domination over the economy.

The fall of Singapore's economy has been hard and fast. Exports zoomed ahead during the 1970s, spurred along by large government investments in shipbuilding and petroleum refining.

But both of these industries turned sour, with oil exports falling sharply from 1982.

Singapore then found its economy squeezed from another direction — the government's much-vaunted high wage policy.

This policy turned into a time bomb which has already exploded. From 1979 to 1981, increases in labour costs exceeded increases in productivity by 3 percentage points per annum a gap which widened to 9 percentage points after 1982 and resulted in a 40 per cent increase in unit labour costs in just six years.

Singapore had priced itself out of the international market. The effects of these trends remained hidden until a massive boom in domestic construction finally crashed last year.

The contraction of the economy has highlighted yet another severe distortion caused by government policy — Singapore's incredible-

upoo — and that is a big if — the road to recovery will be long and drawn out. The committee says that the CPF and tax cuts should restore growth to the economy after 18 months, and in the meantime that Singaporeans should brace themselves for a drop in living standards.

In the long run, it suggests Singapore must expand its role as a service centre for the south-east Asian region. That obviously will have to wait until raw material prices pick up again and growth returns to neighbouring countries.

The report has highlighted once again Singapore's remarkable dependence on the outside world, and the fragility of its success. Fully two-thirds of total demand is generated externally, far higher than even Hong Kong, where external demand reaches 48 per cent.

The breadth of the committee's report is indeed remarkable. But already signs have sprouted up that a long political battle lies ahead. The work of the young committee chairman, General Lee, who has been promoted to be acting Minister of Trade and Industry, may thus have just begun, and his political future could hinge on how well both the report and the economy fare.

It would be unnatural if the entire second generation of political leaders in Singapore, who rose to prominence in the 1970s and are now cabinet ministers, did not watch the rise of the Prime Minister's son with apprehension.

The Prime Minister himself has evidently warned to his son's very effective leadership of the economic committee, an achievement which many participants praised. Not an economist himself, Gen Lee did his homework. He grasped the discussion and led the committee to a consensus.

Almost imperceptibly the long shadow of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew may have begun to shorten. The initiative for solving the island-state's economic problems has passed from his hand, even if final authority over it remains firmly in grasp. The Prime Minister says he will retire in a few years, although he is likely to retain considerable authority.

Speculation that his son may succeed him may prove premature, at least in the near term. Yet the transition to a government that reaches out to the public to build consensus before acting appears irreversible.

— Financial Times news feature.

السلامة في العمل



# Democracy in Jordan: Form and Content



**Talking straight**  
**Marwan Muasher**

DEMOCRACY in Jordan can rightly be argued to be a subject that has been talked about too much or too little. To invoke it again might seem to be another academic exercise, except for the renewed, if not continued, interest it received lately.

Indeed, several events have recently taken place in town, all somehow tied to the subject of democracy. Suddenly, the limelight was focused on a new electoral law, supposedly ensuring better representation for citizens, only to be shelved almost with the same speed with which it was introduced. Several lectures on democracy were recently given by prominent figures, even if they did not receive proper attention. Arab parliamentarians were also meeting in town last week. And, in what must be seen as a positive development in information policy that one hopes is not an isolated inci-

dent, the Jordanian media, including TV, published the full text of a statement by the PLO that did not exactly coincide with official Jordanian policy.

Amidst all these recent developments, it is not peculiar for Jordanians to wonder about the status of democracy here, and to offer visions as to where it is heading or how it should be developed.

It is imperative when one talks about democracy in Jordan to distinguish between form and content. Most public speakers talking about the issue have overemphasised the former at the expense of the latter. It is also necessary, given this intended or accidental confusion, to deal with more specific issues rather than to keep at the level of some fuzzy generalities. One, in short, wants to shift the emphasis from the easy confines of theorizing to the practical world of reality.

It is easy, thus, for some people to dismiss the whole debate by claiming we have a high level of democracy here. What they would be talking about is form.

Let us examine, if you will, the form of democracy in Jordan. We have a constitution defining the rights and duties of citizens and the government. Among the rights it guarantees are freedom of speech and formation of political parties. The press is not subject to censorship except in defined cases. There is an elected parliament, to which the government answers. Parliament passes or rejects laws, and can withhold confidence from the government.

Indeed, reading the constitution alone can make an effective argument for democracy in Jordan. Unfortunately, that is as far as many people have gone. To go further and explore the rea-

lities has not been done, making arguments of theoretical relevance only heavily susceptible to criticism.

For reasons beyond the scope of this article, and regardless of their validity, democracy in content has not kept up to par with its counterpart in form.

Freedom of speech has not resulted in an atmosphere where citizens can completely voice their opinions within the limits of the law. While newspapers are not censored prior to publication, few care to publish articles that might be seen as opposing official policy. The recent PLO statement was an exception, but newspapers only published it after it was read on TV and distributed by Petra, the official news agency.

Parliament is elected, but candidates are not allowed to hold public rallies when running for office to make their views known. Political parties

have been forbidden for thirty years. And, in dozens of governments formed in Jordan, only one was denied a vote of confidence in 1963. That paints a rather different picture from the one inspired by theory.

Another problem we seem to have with democracy is that nobody can agree on a definition for it. It is not uncommon for many here to claim we are a democratic society, as democracy is defined abroad, only for the same people to assert, whenever convenient, that we should not blindly "import" democracy.

Is there, then, a common definition for democracy, or is there a Jordanian democracy, an Arabian democracy, or an American democracy?

I do not propose to enter into any philosophical discussions of the matter. I resort to simple answers, and I can find most of them in the constitution. To

me, one of the important indicators for democracy is the free exchange of ideas and the free exercise of one's will within the limits of the law.

As such, there are some manifestations of democracy here. Elections of parliament and unions are one. Criticisms of some actions of the government by parliament or the press is yet another. In all cases, however, the line that defines the limit for the exercise of democracy here needs to be redrawn so it offers more content than form.

It is thus that actions such as the publishing of the PLO statement here take additional importance. In fact, the act here was far more important than the contents of the document, which itself did not offer any new insights. The mere sight of a TV announcer, reading aloud the document on TV was an action that stood out, because the incident pro-

vided an example of democracy in action, regardless of where one stood on the issue in question. That has not been a particularly familiar experience, an incident that one hopes will cease to be the exception rather than the rule.

There is, of course, an ongoing debate in Jordan over whether democracy here is desirable or not. That is not the subject of this article. Obviously, there are strong sentiments on both sides of the issue. What I object to, however, are arguments claiming a level of democracy here not actually substantiated, or coming out with new definitions that defy objectivity.

If someone is against or for democracy, there is no reason why he should not voice their sentiments clearly. After all, in an atmosphere of free expression of will that would be the proper thing to do.

## New generation of battery-run cars

By Dieter Tasch

WHISPERING cars are on their way: cars that exhaust-free and not just pollution-controlled. Three thousand battery-powered Volkswagen Golfs will soon be test-driven in Berlin.

If the trials are successful we will be on the way to a fully-fledged car at the lower middle end of the market that is more deserving of the seal of environmental quality than any of the models now marketed as low-pollution.

The Berlin trials are intended to gain experience in ordinary, every day city motoring.

The cars, marketed outside Germany as VW Rabbits, will be assembled in a factory in Wolfsburg with a combustion engine. They will be converted to battery power in Berlin.

Volkswagen are in overall charge of the scheme, with which Brown, Boveri (BBC) and Hagen Batteries are also associated. Hagen supplying the conventional lead batteries.

Electric traction is nothing new for Volkswagen. There have been trials of battery-powered vans and Golfs in the past.

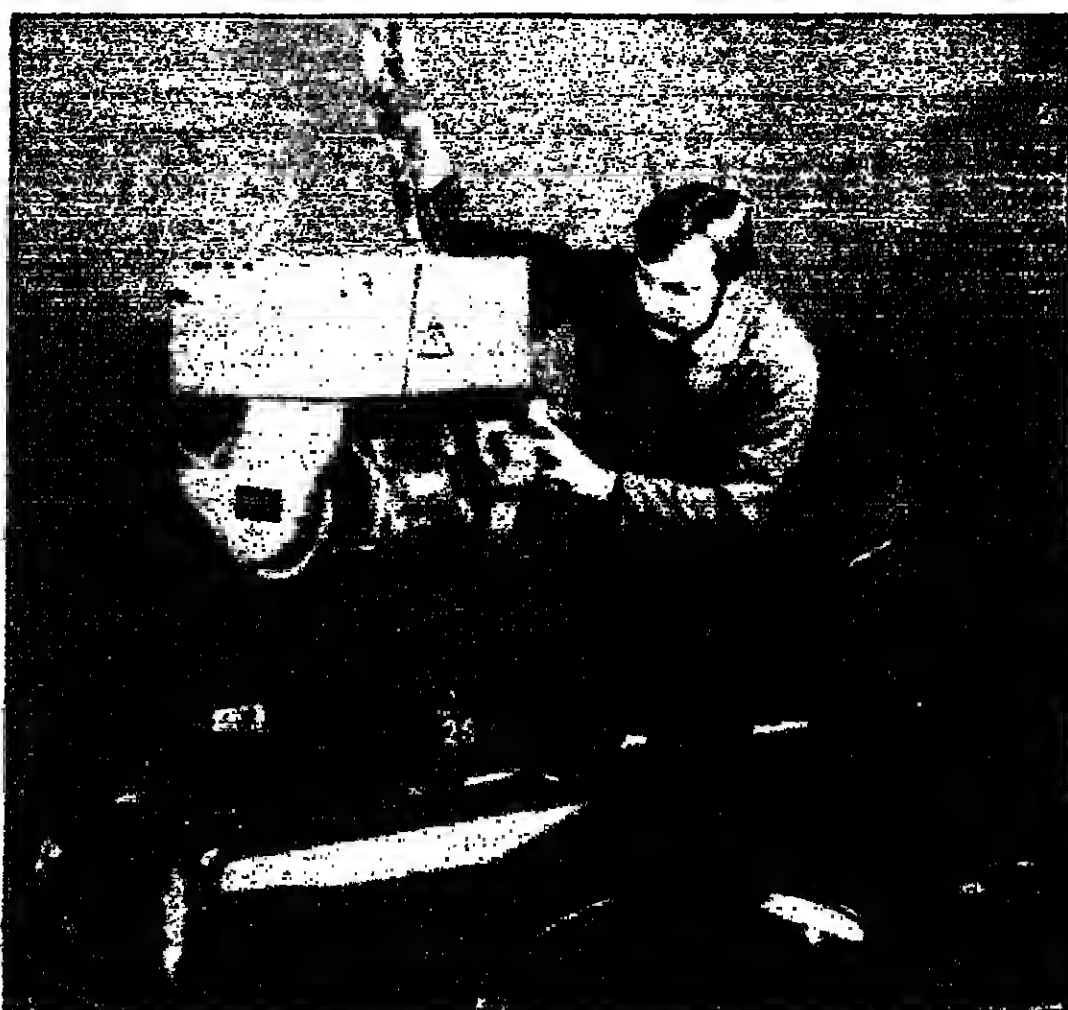
The battery-run Golf was dubbed the City-Stromer, the second half of the name being a pun on electricity and the epithet Rover. It was a striking name but also conceded limits to the car's range. Its bonnet boasted the proud claim "I'm electric." Volkswagen joined forces with BBC, Auwärter and the Gesellschaft für elektrischen Strassenverkehr on the project.

The City-Stromer's range was 57 km, or just over 35 miles, which is roughly the distance covered by commuters in city traffic. Its top speed was between 80 and 90 km/h, or 50-55 mph. Higher speeds would use much more power.

A 25-per-cent-higher speed, 100 km/h, would require 58 per cent more energy. With a top speed of 80 km/h the car ran on a mere 11 kilowatts on flat roads. Higher power can be generated for a moment, say to mount a kerb, but radius is reduced as a result.

Power is generated by a direct current engine and multi-speed gearbox with correcting elements linking battery, engine and vehicle.

The Berlin trials will pave the way for the next step in the gradual development of battery-powered cars manufactured in long runs. They will be powered by a new generation of battery, the



Battery-powered engine unit ready for installation in an assembly-line Volkswagen Golf (Photo by BBC)

sodium-sulphur battery. BBC have been working on this new battery for a dozen years. They are said to store four times as much energy as conventional lead batteries.

Each battery consists of 500 cells and one problem that needed solving was how to insulate them when the battery reached running temperatures of between 300 and 350 degrees centigrade.

At room temperature the battery doesn't work, so insulation was needed to ensure that the battery was not brought to a halt by cold. BBC spokesmen have claimed at a conference in Baden-Baden that insulating materials have been found to solve this heat problem.

BBC are now slowly stepping up series production of the new battery. Current output is one a week. By the end of the decade it should be 10,000 a year, later 100,000 a year. Customers will not be limited to the vehicle industry; BBC envisage a wide range of uses. A further advantage of the sodium-sulphur battery over the

conventional kind is that it doesn't discharge power, not even in cold weather, and needs no maintenance. It has a longer life than conventional batteries. It can be recharged 1,000 times, corresponding to 200,000 kilometres of motoring. In long runs the new battery should be cheaper than lead batteries, and sodium and sulphur, the raw materials needed to manufacture it, are available in enormous quantity.

Cars in the VW Golf or Opel Escort or Kadett category powered by the new battery will be no less comfortable than conventional models, reaching speeds of 120-130 km/h (70-75 mph) for instance. Range is to be extended from 90 to 250 km (60 to 156 miles). Acceleration to 50 km/h (30 mph) from a standing start is to be improved to seven seconds.

Practical use of battery-powered vehicles will depend on infrastructure, particularly the availability of charging points. A car used as a city runabout can be recharged overnight from a conventional power point. There will also be a quick recharge taking 30-60 minutes.

Batteries could also be replaced at filling stations. Changing a battery could take no longer than filling a fuel tank, maybe even less.

Power utilities are unlikely to face a supply bottleneck. The battery-powered car will be slow to gain popularity, initially providing a niche with an opportunity of selling surplus output and thereafter gradually stepping up capacity.

Static emission by power stations, particularly NOx emission, will hopefully have been reduced substantially by this stage. Environmental conservation will be the main sales motive for battery-powered cars, BBC are convinced. They won't, in the foreseeable future, be replacing conventional motor vehicles entirely.

But there will be more and more zones, especially in built-up areas, where conventional cars are banned and only battery-powered cars are allowed to operate — Hannoversche Allgemeine.

## Indians profit from Britain's neglected offshoots

Indian businessmen with an eye for a bargain have found rich pickings among local subsidiaries of leading British companies, reports John Elliot, recently in Calcutta. New management and more cash have worked wonders.

INDIAN offshoots of Metal Box and Thorn EMI have in the last few months become the latest casualties of British industrial decline in Calcutta, former administrative and commercial capital of the British Indian Empire.

Along with other companies, including Dunlop India a year ago, they have been partially or wholly taken over by Indian entrepreneurs who rate them far more highly than their British owners.

Urgently-needed finance and management talent have been injected by the Indian businessmen into the neglected companies, which are partly suffering from managerial failure to cope with the bureaucratic and other problems of operating in India since independence nearly 40 years ago.

Mr. R.P. Goenka observed wryly last year, when he took his family business into Dunlop just before BTR bought the U.K. parent, that he had a liking for "neglected British companies."

In a similar vein he has recently taken control of the Calcutta-based Gramophone Company of India, 38 per cent-owned by Thorn EMI, and which had slipped into accumulated losses of Rs85 million to Rs90 million (\$7.3 million) on a turnover of Rs 130 million a year.

Mr. B.M. Khaitan has just moved into Metal Box — 40 per cent British-owned — with his MacNeil and Magor Company which he owns jointly with the British Magor tea estate family. He says: "Many of the British companies have had professional management, but now they need the forward thinking and risk-taking of an entrepreneur."

Calcutta and its surrounding

takeover rumours and has had approaches from the Birla family and others.

Even Chloride, 51 per cent British-owned and a contributor of about \$3 million a year to its U.K. parent's profits, is thought to be a potential candidate, despite its long-term potential.

"We are keeping our eyes and ears open but we have not been approached by a potential buyer. But if the price was right it would be unnatural for our owner not to look closely at it," says Mr. Jahar Sengupta, chairman and managing director, who is a member of the parent board in the U.K.

Allegations are often made — and denied by those involved — that "black" money hoarded abroad by Marwari traders is used to pay for the acquisitions. Such arrangements have to be made more carefully following the Indian government's clamp-down on corruption. This has included investigations into two Indian businessmen, Mr. M.R. Chhabria and Mr. Vijay Malviya, in connection with the purchase last year of R.G. Shaw of the U.K. as an offshore means of taking over Shaw Wallace of Calcutta.

Rights issues are now the favoured official route, with the Indian businessmen involved obtaining an equity stake by picking up the British company's allocation. This is happening in both Metal Box and Gramophone, where Mr. Khaitan and Mr. Goenka have injected urgently-needed working capital. They will then gain stakes of 10 per cent in Metal Box and 15 per cent in Gramophone by taking up equity-linked debenture issues allocated to the British parents.

Some companies are wary of the Marwari families, especially when they try to gain managerial control through minority stakes. "They are like an octopus — you get one tentacle and then another and they don't stop till they get all of you," says a senior Indian executive of one multinational.

The recent sales from the fourth phase of a withdrawal from India of the British companies that originally built the country's industrial base. The first came in the late 1940s with independence.

The second and third included many tea companies and occurred in the 1960s and 1970s because of West Bengal's major labour problems and restrictions on foreign share ownership imposed in 1973 under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

Now the companies are suffering from a long-term lack of entrepreneurial drive and a lack of interest from their British owners, which have found India a difficult place in which to operate and have had more pressing problems to tackle at home.

The inheritance of British colonial rule also sometimes makes it difficult for British and Indian managers to deal in tough fashion with each other, and few Indian executives given top posts have often seen the remittance of dividends as more important than planning expansion.

Early signs are that it does not need much more than renewed management confidence and vigour, product and marketing reappraisal, and short-term cash support to correct the slide.

Dunlop, which had no cash problems and now has had the added impetus of a determined new U.K. owner in BTR, is believed to have boosted its profits from Rs19 million in 1984 to about Rs100 million last year, exceeding a 1983 record of Rs84 million. The new Indian families in Metal Box and Gramophone also expect a fairly rapid turnaround, once the years of neglect have been halted — Financial Times news feature.

J. Moreno, Manila.

Elaine Crispin, Mrs. Reagan's press secretary, said they were given to the first lady by Mrs. Marcos in New York at a conference held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the United Nations.

U.S. representative Jack Kemp reported that in September he received from then-President Ferdinand Marcos and Mrs. Marcos: "Earrings, rings, cufflinks, studs, brooch and necklaces." The jewelry, valued at \$10,420, was sent to the house clerk's office, the report said.

John Buckley, Kemp's press secretary, said the gifts were presented to the congressman and his wife, Joanne, in Manila while they were on a privately financed fact-finding tour of Asia.

## From poor peoples' pockets to the U.S. treasury

By Mike Robinson

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos presented Nancy Reagan with two gowns valued at \$10,000 and joined her husband in giving a U.S. congressman jewelry worth \$10,420 last fall, a report showed on March 7.

President Ronald Reagan also received an ivory elephant statue with diamonds and other gems from Thai Queen Sirikit and two bottles of vodka from Soviet party chief Mikhail Gorbachev.

The gifts were detailed in an annual report on thousands of dollars' worth of items lavished on United States officials by foreign governments in 1985.

Under U.S. law, the items must be stored by the U.S. government, and they have been.

Saudi King Fahd presented a \$2,500-dollar, gold-plated, diamond-studded clock to the Reagans as well as apparel and art work costing even more. Gorbachev sent 12 jars of caviar along with the vodka and other items.

Central Intelligence Agency Director William J. Casey, not required to reveal the sources of gifts, reported a French d'Armes St. Etienne revolver, a bone-handled, silver-sheathed sword and assorted African and Chinese art objects. Gifts to other CIA officials — some not obliged to give even their own names — included a Lugar pistol and a "Mideastern sultan's dagger."

Most gifts will be displayed in

museums or be stored in government warehouses. Under the government ethics law, officials may not accept gifts worth more than \$165 from foreign governments, except on behalf of the U.S. government.

Eye-catching items are sometimes cleared for display in the recipient's office but must remain behind when he or she leaves the job.

The White House report said that on Oct. 21, Mrs. Reagan received from Mrs. Marcos: "Two gowns: one is black velvet and floor length with a silver sequined and rhinestone phoenix bird design; the other is red silk strapless gown with a rhinestone butterfly design at top and a matching jacket with same design repeated at top. Both unsized and sewn by

J. Moreno, Manila.

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## Lie detector deemed shaky defence against spies

By Christopher Hanson

Reuters

WASHINGTON — Evidence is mounting that the lie detector, used widely in the United States to detect spies in government and dishonest employees, is highly unreliable, according to critics of the instrument.

The polygraph does have many defenders. U.S. intelligence officials insist it is an accurate, essential tool in security investigations and thousands of businesses use it in job interviews to screen out drug users or would-be thieves, according to recent congressional testimony.

But polygraph foes ranging from Secretary of State George Shultz to the American Psychological Association say lie detector tests can exonerate the guilty, implicate the innocent and cause anguish to those wired up to the "fluter machines."

Newspaper columnist William Safire, a former Nixon White House aide, wrote recently: "Americans should not have to undergo mental torture to keep their jobs."

Safire said President Reagan's endorsement of increased lie detector use in his administration to catch security risks and news lea-

kers, revealed "the dark side of his nature."

A recent congressional study of polygraph results cited data suggesting the machine is no more reliable than flipping a coin.

Congress is to vote soon on legislation that would ban polygraph testing of job applicants by private businesses.

Law enforcement officials say lie detectors are not widely used outside the United States, Israel and Japan.

Communist bloc defectors say the machines are not used at all by the Soviet police or KGB intelligence service.

Reagan has sought to expand use of polygraph tests within the government to root out spies and those who leak information to the press. He signed an order that could subject 129,000 federal workers to random testing.

After Shultz protested against the order last December, the president appeared to pull back, saying such tests would be used only in specific investigations. But he said recently that the order calling for random tests was still in effect.

Official records show lie detector tests by the Defense Department, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other intelligence units jumped from

about 7,000 in 1973 to 23,000 in 1982.

Despite the upswing in polygraph use, U.S. intelligence sources told Reuters the machines' effectiveness at uncovering secrets was dubious. The sources said Soviet KGB agents were being trained successfully to beat the polygraph.

Larry Wu-Tai Chin, recently convicted to spying for China throughout his 30-year career at the CIA, was selected at random for a polygraph test in 1970 and passed, U.S. officials say. Chin committed suicide in jail on February 21.

The intelligence sources noted the polygraph cannot detect lies as such but instead measures physiological responses — perspiration, blood pressure, pulse, breathing — that are thought to indicate lying.

By controlling those responses — tensing up to answer non-threatening questions and relaxing for threatening ones — wily suspects can fool the machine, the sources said.

Critics say perspiration, blood pressure changes and so on can indicate nervousness at taking the exam rather than lying.

A 1983 report by the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), an investigative arm of Congress,

concluded that the polygraph's scientific validity could not be established. It cited data showing that the machine's accuracy had ranged between 50 and 98 per cent.

A Michigan State University study found the polygraph to be accurate 51 per cent of the time in exonerating innocent suspects — a result scarcely better than flipping a coin.

According to other studies, 10 innocent people could be implicated for every guilty person identified by polygraph.

Despite the scepticism, Defense Department and intelligence officials say the device, invented 80 years ago, has helped uncover many spies and security violations.

An FBI spokesman told Reuters that laboratory tests which found the polygraph inaccurate were misleading because "under laboratory conditions, it is difficult to simulate the stress of actual conditions."

He said studies of criminal investigations showed a polygraph accuracy rate of more than 90 per cent if the exams were administered and interpreted correctly.

Another criticism is that polygraph tests might be used to invade the privacy of workers.

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## Cameroun stops Algeria to claim semi-final berth

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Titleholders Cameroun beat Algeria 3-2 Friday in a three-minute goalfest to gain the last semi-final berth in the African Nations' Football Cup.

The two goals from Mexico World Cup finalists Algeria came close at either end of the Camerounian avalanche, giving the Alexandria crowd the rare spectacle of five goals scored over only seven minutes in the second half.

The final Group B match means Cameroun will meet Ivory Coast here on Monday, while Morocco — which defeated Zambia 1-0 here earlier on Friday — will travel to Cairo to play Egypt in the semi-finals.

Algeria's Rabah Nadjer of Portuguese club Porto, standing close to Cameroun keeper Thomas Nkono's left goalpost, opened the scoring in the 65th minute, heading in a free kick which crossed the goalmouth from out on Algeria's left wing.

Four minutes later, Cameroun's

top scorer Roger Milla took a long pass forward and slipped it sideways to midfielder Andre Kana Biyik, who slammed it over keeper Nacer Eddine Drid's head to equalise in the left-hand corner.

Seconds after the fresh kick-off, Milla fed cleanly to right winger Ernest Ebongue, Ebongue centred to Kana inside the box, who slammed the ball to the left of a helpless Drid.

Milla of French Second Division side St. Etienne and now the top scorer of the tournament, had his own chance a minute later when he picked up a long diagonal pass from the left wing.

Without an Algerian defender in sight, he shot straight at Drid, who let the ball bounce off him as he fell to the ground. Milla kicked again to take Cameroun 3-1

ahead.

Algeria took a consolation second goal only 30 seconds later when Karim Marouc retrieved a ball punched clear by Nkono and slammed it back to the left of the distracted keeper.

Earlier, Morocco clinched its passage to the semifinals on the strength of Merry Krimau's first-half goal against Zambia.

Krimau, who plays for French First Division club Le Havre, scored in the 21st minute, tripping one of winger Aziz Bouderbala's enticing crosses on his chest and making a half-circle to ram the ball home from 14 metres out.

It was Krimau's second goal in as many matches. On Tuesday he kept Morocco's hopes alive in a 1-1 tie with Cameroun when he headed home in the second half, also from a cross by Bouderbala.

Egypt and Ivory Coast have already qualified for the semi-finals out of the Group A round-robin played in Cairo.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Zico should be fit for Mexico

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's injured striker Zico will not need more surgery on his left knee, the doctor who operated on him last year said Thursday. "No one should panic. This new injury will not leave Zico out of the World Cup finals in Mexico," Dr. Abraham Fiszmann said at a press conference. He said that after submitting Zico to a thorough examination he concluded that even though he twisted the same knee in training that had been operated on, it was a new injury. Dr. Fiszmann said he was confident Zico would return to his daily training within the next two weeks and that he was likely to be ready for Brazil's series of home warm-up matches before the Mexico finals.

### Borussia's Uwe Rahn returns to action

BONN (R) — Midfielder Uwe Rahn, a strong candidate for West Germany's World Cup squad, is set to return to league action Saturday after a long injury lay-off. Rahn, 23, plays his first game of the year for Borussia Moenchengladbach in Bochum. Ten weeks ago he had an operation for an ankle injury which was at first thought to endanger his chances of going to Mexico.

### Manchester United to play Flamengo

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Manchester United and Flamengo, the two best-supported soccer clubs in England and Brazil respectively, will clash in a friendly exhibition game at Old Trafford August 6, officials of the English club announced Friday. The match will be part of a European tour being organised by the Brazilian team.

## Brazil's stumbling block: defence

By Paul Radford  
Reuter

FRANKFURT, West Germany — The Brazilian national soccer team, adored around the globe for their unrivalled artistry and attacking flair, may show a different face in this summer's Mexico World Cup finals.

In the first game of their World Cup preparations on Wednesday, Brazil lost 2-0 to a less naturally-gifted West German side.

The match left trainer Tele Santana reflecting aloud on the need to curb the players' attacking instincts and add some defence steel to their make-up.

"I have too many players of the same type," he complained to reporters. "They all love to attack, no-one likes marking."

The lesson is one Brazil should have learned by bitter experience in the 1982 finals in Spain.

There they wooed the hearts of soccer fans with their exhilarating skills only to lose the trophy which seemed destined to be theirs by defensive lapses in a 3-2 defeat to eventual winners Italy.

Memories of the magnificent Brazilian side of Pele, Tostao, Gerson and Rivelino which won the 1970 title in Mexico have

made them once again the World Cup favourites.

Their favourite's role may be based more on sentiment than reality for Brazilian soccer is beset by internal problems and the team is widely thought to be too old.

After years of plucking natural talents off the beaches or out of the slums, Brazil is suffering a generation gap. There are no obvious successors to the likes of Socrates, Falcao and Zico, who remain the stars of the side, but who are all the wrong side of 30.

Santana, vilified after the 1982 setback but now back in charge and hailed as a potential saviour, has tried to balance this by throwing some youngsters in at the deep end.

Three made their debuts against the West Germans — Muller, 20, a goal-scoring deep right-winger, Sidoc, 22, a left-side striker and left back Dida, 20.

Santana said he was happy with the way all three played, but there was no doubt he was most pleased with Muller.

Born Luis Antonio Correia Da Costa, Muller took his nickname from former West German striker Gerd Muller.

Unfortunately, Muller's contribution was overshadowed in a game which deteriorated because of the rugged tackling of both sides.

The West Germans scored after 80 seconds through Hans-Peter Briegel and threatened to overturn Brazil, who resorted to methods of stopping opponents which one would prefer not to see from players of their classic skills.

They showed later they do possess the traditional Brazilian grace and flair though without ever combining as a cohesive unit.

Socrates, captain of the 1982 side and now 32, came with a big question mark behind his name. The poor form he showed during his spell in Italy with Fiorentina and a long absence through injury this season left many doubting whether he could reach his peak again.

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- Interested firms may obtain further information and inspect the terms of reference at the office of the President, Water Authority, Amman, Tel. 666111, Telex 22439 WAJ JO.
- A complete set of the terms of reference may be purchased by any interested firm on the submission of a written application to the above and upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 50.
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- A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 75.
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## Reagan names Conable to head World Bank

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has named former congressman Mr. Barber Conable, to head the World Bank, ending months of speculation over who would succeed outgoing president, Mr. Tom Clausen.

Mr. Conable, 63, a Republican, stepped down last year after serving in the House of Representatives for 20 years. His appointment is likely to come as a considerable surprise to the international economic community.

Despite a formidable reputation as a Republican, he is not well-known internationally. According to tradition, the head of the bank is usually named by the United States, while the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is always a European.

The White House praised Mr. Clausen for leaving behind an institution ready "to cope with the challenges to development in the coming years."

Under Mr. Clausen's tenure, which ends this June, the bank "has conducted the most searching reform of its activities in its 40-year history," the White House said.

But those words masked a long-held Reagan administration desire to replace Mr. Clausen, appointed by former president, Mr. Jimmy Carter, with someone more sympathetic to its aims.

In the early years of his five-year term, Mr. Clausen fought hard for the bank, which promotes long-term development in the Third World.

But he ran into stiff opposition from tough Reagan aides like then treasury secretary, Mr. Donald Regan, who questioned policies they thought were too favourable to the developing nations.

When Mr. James Baker became treasury secretary, the administration reversed its policies and acknowledged that something more had to be done to combat the debt crisis.

By then, however, Mr. Clausen was regarded by the new treasury team as too ineffectual to bolster the bank's role in shoring up the global debt situation.

Mr. Clausen also suffered from unfavourable comparisons with former president, Mr. Robert McNamara, a dynamic figure in the bank's history who battled for Third World causes with as much energy as he devoted to being secretary of defence during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Conable is known to be close to Vice President George Bush. For years he was a ranking member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee where "he demonstrated extensive knowledge of economic and financial matters, both domestic and international," the White House said.

Mr. Baker, who is likely to have played a key role in selecting the new bank president, is another Bush confidant.

A senior White House official praised Mr. Conable's achievements, saying, "we have high hopes of him, he knows these issues cold. He's highly esteemed all round."

The official acknowledged that Mr. Conable's extensive experience in Congress played a part in his selection.

In recent months, American funding for the multilateral development banks like the World Bank has run into trouble on Capitol Hill, where pressures to cut the budget deficit are squeezing foreign aid appropriations.

But Mr. Conable, whose appointment came as a surprise to most observers of the selection process, will face the formidable task of streamlining the often chaotic decision-making process of the bank and helping it assume a more significant role in defusing the debt crisis.

Last September, Mr. Baker unveiled his plan for dealing with debt problems which included a beefed up role for the bank.

The institution has been criticised for taking a back seat in the debt crisis, leaving much of the work to the IMF.

In recent years the IMF, which has forced debtor nations to adopt tough austerity measures to restore economic health, has become

## Tokyo stock market roars ahead as muscular yen stomps on dollar

TOKYO (R) — Foreigners scrambled to buy shares on the booming Tokyo stock market Friday, driving the dollar down further against the muscular Japanese yen.

The U.S. currency slumped to 177 in late foreign exchange trading, its lowest since October 1978 compared with a close of 180.30 Thursday.

Several dealers reported a U.S. securities house selling about \$1 billion for yen to buy Japanese shares.

The stock market, roaring ahead for the 11th consecutive day, closed at a record 14,516.77 points, up nearly 100 from Thursday.

Turnover was a heavy one billion shares, brokers said. The stock market went up and dollar went down amid reports that Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone called on his cabinet to produce a package to stimulate the domestic economy.

Japan's wholesale prices, moved by the rising yen and falling costs of oil, showed their biggest monthly fall in February, promising lower prices to domestic consumers.

The dollar finished at 226.75 West German marks against 2,285.7 in New York after trading between 2,259.5 and 2,283.0.

Some brokers said the record fall in the wholesale price index meant the central bank could again cut the discount rate, which

was lowered to four per cent effective Monday, a move which could stimulate the domestic economy. Others said they expect no new cut until around September.

The Bank of Japan said prices of goods sold by wholesalers dropped 1.5 per cent in February, the 12th monthly decline in a row.

Lower wholesale prices, once they are reflected into prices consumers must pay, should also help boost the nation's economic growth, economists said.

Japanese consumer demand is important because more than half of the nation's economic growth is supported by their buying.

It may take another three to six months before the impact of lower wholesale prices takes effect, one economist said, adding: "Always there is a time lag before people realise their purchasing power has increased."

Although Japanese exporters have been running into financial trouble because of the strong yen, many other industries can now buy raw materials overseas more cheaply.

Profits, especially for oil refineries and electric power companies, which use heavy amounts of imported crude oil, have surged

in the last few months. The yen's value has gained about 30 per cent in the past six months while spot oil prices have fallen to below \$12 a barrel from about \$22 early this year.

Consumers are clamouring for price cuts in petrol and electricity. The government is pressing these industries to plough their profits back into the business or launch other projects to help Japanese companies expand.

Economists predicted a further fall in wholesale prices over the next few months.

U.S. spurs call for all-out summit attack on Japan

Meanwhile, American officials Thursday said the United States has rejected suggestions it should join its European allies in an all-out assault on Japan at the May economic summit in Tokyo.

"Using the summit to gang up on Japan wouldn't be a good idea," one official said.

The officials, who declined to be identified, said Washington did not want to jeopardise the delicate workings of the summit process by using the meeting to launch a combined attack on Tokyo's economic policies.

Leaders of the seven summit nations — Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, West Germany and the United States — are due

to meet in Tokyo in early May. Some Japanese officials had feared their country would be particularly vulnerable to criticism of its huge trade surplus because, as host, it would want to avoid any public show of dissent.

The U.S. officials said Washington was perhaps more aware than Europe of the role played by Japan as a regional power in Asia and did not want to undermine its defence relationship with Tokyo.

Earlier, the European Community launched a sharp attack on Japan's trade surplus. It warned Tokyo it might lose the trading concessions it has obtained under GATT, the Geneva-based world trade body.

Western diplomats said they thought President Reagan's administration might want to avoid an overt, concerted attack on Japan for fear it would only serve to stoke the already strong protectionist pressures in the United States.

For the most part, the administration has successfully resisted those pressures, which are expected to intensify with the approach of the U.S. congressional elections in November.

The administration also believes Tokyo has already taken dramatic action to reduce its trade surplus, including fostering a sharp rise in the value of the yen on foreign exchange markets.

Dr. Subroto said Indonesia had formulated a new proposed solution because two proposals which would be discussed at the ministerial meeting starting on Sunday were unlikely to work.

The first, formulated by the hardline group, would increase oil prices through a drastic production cutback to 10 million barrels per day (b/d) from an OPEC average of 16 million and possibly even suspend exports totally for a month, he said.

Dr. Subroto said he believed a fair price was between \$20 and \$25 a barrel, compared with current spot market prices of under \$15.

Nigeria said Wednesday it also supported this as a reasonable price.

"We don't know yet what level the price will be at, but we should strive to stabilise prices at around \$20 to \$25 a barrel," Dr. Subroto said.

He said his proposal represented a compromise between OPEC hardliners Iran, Libya and Algeria who want to slash production drastically and the Gulf states supported by Saudi Arabia.

He said that once a fair price level was agreed at Geneva, OPEC and non-OPEC producers which had agreed to cooperate could negotiate on the output level for each country to support prices in the market.

Non-OPEC producers Mexico, Malaysia, Egypt, Brunei, the Soviet Union and China have said they will help to stabilise world

prices, he said. Britain and Norway had not agreed, he added.

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## Officials expect significant boom in industrial nations

PARIS (R) — Economic prospects for the non-communist industrial world have been significantly boosted by falling oil prices and interest rates, and by the decline of the dollar, financial officials said here Thursday.

"All three trends are fundamentally beneficial to the world economy," British treasury official, Mr. Geoffrey Linter, told reporters.

Mr. Linter, heading an expert working party of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), said a two-day meeting here focused on the outlook for the United States, Japan and West Germany.

"We heard an encouraging account from the U.S. on prospects for tackling the fiscal deficit," (and) we heard an important commitment from West Germany on the predicted growth of domestic demand in the next 18 months, he said without giving details.

Japan repeated its determination to cut its current account balance of payments surplus by expanding domestic demand

and encouraging imports, he added.

Mr. Linter declined comment on the growth prospects for individual countries, saying much would depend on the future level of oil prices.

But other officials said calculations put to the meeting by West Germany showed its growth in domestic demand could be boosted to five per cent this year compared with the government's official forecast of four per cent.

On that basis West Germany's gross national product could rise four per cent in 1986, half a percentage point more than the government's last official forecast.

OECD officials said studies prepared ahead of the meeting suggested that the total growth in industrial countries could be boosted by about half a percentage point this year from the 2.5 per cent average forecast by the organisation last December.

That calculation was based on an assumed oil price average of around \$20 a barrel, \$6 less than the price assumed for the December forecast but still far higher than current levels of around \$14.

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## Widespread pay strike begins to bite in Finland

HELSINKI (R) — An indefinite strike by some 240,000 Finnish workers for more pay and shorter hours began to bite Friday, but union officials expressed hope that further negotiations might end the action by the weekend.

The walkout, which began Thursday, halted all foreign trade within hours and closed most of the country's vital pulp and paper and metal industries. Electricity companies warned that power cuts were likely within a few days and domestic flights and ferry freight services were affected.

Shops reported some hoarding of fresh meat and prepared foods, which might become scarce if the strike went on for more than a week.

Officials of the trade union confederation SAK, who called the walkout, said lack of time had contributed to their rejection Thursday of a last-minute offer from employers but an agreement remained within reach.

The SAK council, the grouping's main decision-making body, is due to meet on Saturday to review the situation. A final council rejection of any fresh management offer could prolong the strike for several weeks, labour relations analysts said.

Before the strike began, the employers offered to cut the working week from 40 to 38 hours and to raise wages by 2.3 per cent this year and 2.5 per cent in 1987.

SAK wants a 35-hour week by 1990 and annual rises of 3.1 per cent over the next two years.

## Chevron considers cutting workforce, spending

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Chevron, the fifth largest U.S. oil company, said Thursday it was considering laying off up to 15 per cent of its 61,000 employees and ordering a spending cuts to compensate for falling oil prices.

The company issued a statement saying it planned capital and exploratory expenditure in 1986 of \$3.5 billion, 30 per cent less than the \$5 billion it had anticipated before oil prices began falling.

The company has been trying to reduce its debt after a 1984 merger with Gulf. Chairman George Keller reported in January that Chevron had ended 1985 with a debt-to-equity ratio of about 38 per cent, down from 51 per cent at the end of 1984.

In a letter to employees, Mr. Keller said department heads had been asked to submit proposals by April 15 on how the company's workforce could be cut 10 to 15 per cent. Some 51,000 of the employees work in the United States.

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## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

|                   |               |                   |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| One sterling      | 1.4663/73     | U.S. dollars      |
| One U.S. dollar   | 1.3955/60     | Canadian dollars  |
|                   | 2.2590/2600   | West German marks |
|                   | 2.5505/20     | Dutch guilders    |
|                   | 1.8960/75     | Swiss francs      |
|                   | 46.22/27      | Belgian francs    |
|                   | 6.9475/9550   | French francs     |
|                   | 1.538 1/34    | Italian lire      |
|                   | 176.45/55     | Japanese yen      |
|                   | 7.2180/2230   | Swedish crowns    |
|                   | 7.1385/1435   | Norwegian crowns  |
|                   | 8.3525/75     | Danish crowns     |
| One ounce of gold | 348.10/348.60 | U.S. dollars      |

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed higher with light profit-taking well absorbed. Dealers noted selective demand mainly centred on leading companies, with trading interest modest ahead of the U.K. budget on March 18.

At 1530 GMT the F.T. 30 index was 8.5 up at 1,359.5 and the FTSE 100 6.6 firmer at 1,623.3.

ICI added 6p to 1,002, Glaxo gained 30p to 1,035, and Fisons rose 10p to 527 following recent results.

Government bonds showed gains ranging to 1/8 point. Oils and insurance brokers eased, but most other sectors showed net gains.

Banks were higher mainly on brokers' recommendations, dealers said. Natwest advanced 35p to 817 and Barclays gained 15p to 517. Insurances were also firmer with General Accident 13p up at 868, while brokers Sedgwick group lost 13p to 383 after full-year figures on Thursday.

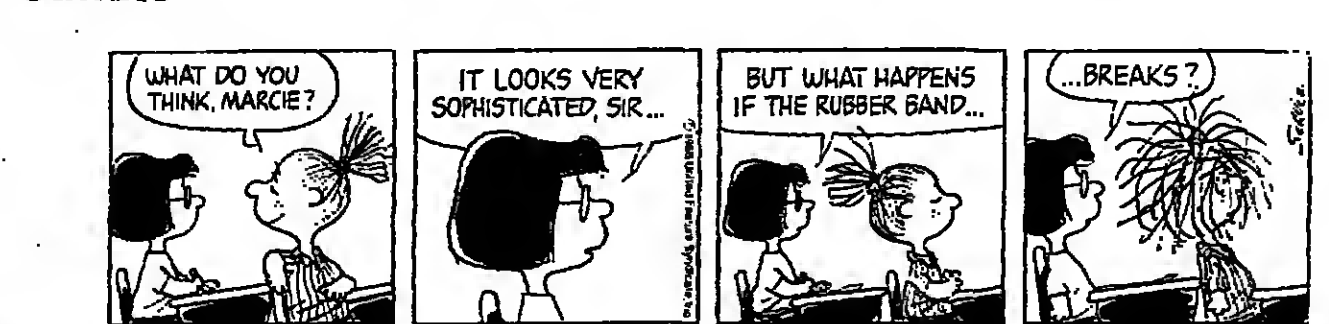
Oils declined ahead of the OPEC meeting due this weekend and reflecting easier crude prices. B.P. was 15p down at 545 and Shell 17p off at 741, while Bunnah put on 7p at 341 on renewed bid speculation, dealers added.

## Horoscope and crosswords not received

Horoscope and crosswords not received

Horoscope and crosswords not received

## Peanuts



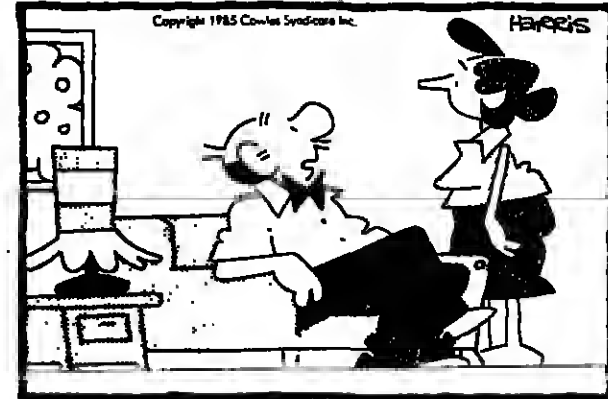
## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp

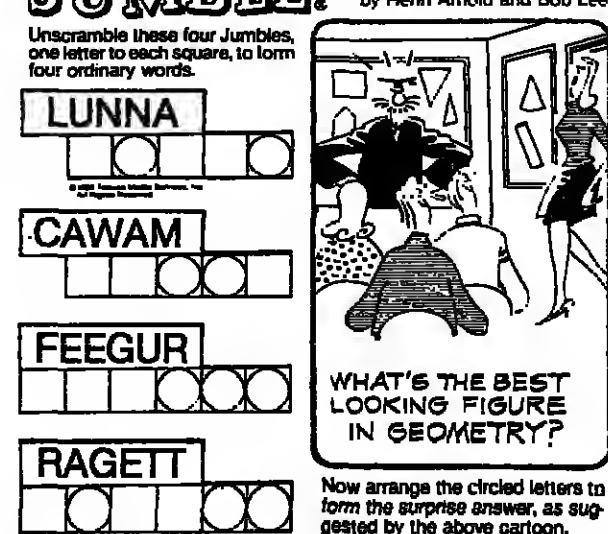


## THE BETTER HALF



"My boss wants me to read some motivation books. Do we have 'The Little Engine That Could?'"

## JUMBLE



Answer: "O-C-O-O-O" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ALTAR DRAMA CANINE IMPEDE  
Answer: What getting rid of her maiden name was—HER MAIDEN AIM



## Spain votes to remain in NATO

MADRID (R) — The Spanish Socialists' unexpected victory in Wednesday's referendum on continued NATO membership appeared to ensure their re-election later this year, as well as providing a major triumph for Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Mr. Gonzalez, elected in 1982 on an anti-NATO platform, staked his reputation by backing continued membership in the face of strong domestic opposition.

The bitterly fought referendum kept the country and its NATO allies on tenterhooks until the last vote was cast. The result boosted share prices to record highs on the Madrid bourse as the business community rejoiced.

NATO allies also hailed the vote to stay in the alliance as a boost for Western democracy, although Moscow said the Spanish Socialist had forced the hands of the electorate.

Mr. Gonzalez had to fight the toughest battle in his political career to win the hearts and minds of Socialist voters reluctant to embrace the alliance.

The Socialists were left to defend continued membership on their own since the staunchly pro-NATO rightist opposition boycotted the referendum in an attempt to hurt Mr. Gonzalez and improve their electoral chances.

A loose coalition of Com-

munist, Pacifist, Ecologists and far-left groups campaigned passionately for withdrawal and polled 39.8 per cent of the vote against a pro-NATO majority of 52.5 per cent.

Anti-NATO leaders rejected Mr. Gonzalez's call for a consensus on foreign policy after the bruising referendum campaign and said they would begin pressing for the dismantling of U.S. military bases here and for the renunciation of Spain's bilateral defence treaty with the United States.

The Spanish Communist Party (PCE) leadership was meeting to study a new campaign to seek a cut in the 12,500 U.S. troops stationed at four bases in Spain.

Diplomatic sources said Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez would probably discuss a reduction in U.S. troops when he travelled to Washington in May for talks with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr. Gonzalez pledged to seek a reduction in troops as part of his campaign to keep Spain in NATO. He also promised to keep Spain

out of NATO's command structure and forbid the installation of nuclear weapons on Spanish soil.

NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington said he was delighted. The decision was one for the Spanish people alone, "but I know I reflect the feelings of all other members in welcoming the result," he said in a statement in Brussels.

Another senior official expressed the relief within NATO that the result, which overturned the predictions of most Spanish opinion polls, had averted a major political setback for the 16-nation alliance.

"We were very worried. It has saved the alliance from a crisis of confidence," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

The United States also greeted the result warmly. "In strengthening the security of its democratic values Spain has also strengthened that of its friends and allies," State Department Spokesman Pete Martinez said.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told a radio interviewer the outcome of the referendum had shown "that the Spanish people have a very healthy sense of judgment."

The British Foreign Office des-

cribed the result as one of historic importance for the Western world. A spokesman said he could see no link with the Anglo-Spanish dispute over the sovereignty of Gibraltar.

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said: "Spaniards have demonstrated their political maturity and desire to integrate fully in the circle of Western democracies."

Danish Defence Minister Hans Engell, who paid an official visit to Spain last week, said "we rejoice with the Spanish people."

Among the first to congratulate Mr. Gonzalez was the newly-elected president of neighbouring Portugal, Mario Soares. He telephoned his fellow Socialist, even before the final result was in.

But in Moscow, the official Soviet News Agency TASS accused Mr. Gonzalez's Socialist Workers' Party of using propaganda to coerce voters after abandoning the anti-NATO stance on which it came to power in 1982.

"The Socialist cabinet mounted a powerful propaganda campaign before the voters under the slogan 'vote yes in the interests of Spain,' maintaining that quitting NATO would supposedly lead to the isolation of Spain," TASS said.

## S. Korean students clash with police

SEOUL (Agencies) — More than 1,000 students demanding President Chun Doo Hwan's resignation battled with riot police at Seoul universities Friday capping a week of campus unrest.

About 1,000 riot police and plainclothes men stormed the Presbyterian Yonsei University campus and fired tear gas to disperse some 700 students, who retaliated with stones.

Several students were kicked and punched before being taken away by police, witnesses said.

At Seoul National University, about 300 students were involved in a similar clash with hundreds of riot police.

A court Friday gave suspended jail sentences to six students after they said they were sorry they had set fire to Mr. Chun's party offices, court officials said. Witnesses said the students were gagged by prison guards when they shouted anti-government slogans as they entered the court.

They were among 82 students standing trial for occupying and setting alight to an office of Mr. Chun's Democratic Justice Party last November.

They had demanded Mr. Chun's resignation and an end to U.S. support for his government, which they called dictatorship.

Hundreds of students have been arrested this year for anti-government protests and for supporting a banned opposition campaign to press for election reforms.

The National Council of Churches said Friday that demoralisation has been delayed more than 40 years and declared, "we cannot wait any longer."

The council, made up of six major Protestant denominations, threw its support publicly to the political opposition's demand for constitutional revisions.

"The rights of the people to call for constitutional revision and to participate in the governing of their nation through the direct election of the president are basic rights which must not be violated," the council said in a statement by its chairman, the Rev. Kim Jee-Giel.

"Democratisation has already been delayed for over 40 years we cannot wait any longer," the statement said.

## Police reportedly kill Colombian rebel leader

BOGOTA (R) — One of the founders and the top leader of Colombia's April-19 guerrilla group (M-19), Alvaro Fayad, was killed by police, a police spokesman said Friday.

Gen. Guillermo Gonzalez of the police command said Fayad was striding in a stylish neighbourhood west of Bogota Thursday night when special commandos advised of his presence there shot and killed him along with a woman companion.

Police earlier said Fayad was killed in a shootout with army troops and that a massive military operation was under way nearby.

Fayad had been in Bogota since last Wednesday attending a guerrilla summit, according to reports reaching police.

Fayad, in his 40s, had met President Belisario Betancur several times to draw up terms of a ceasefire. He became the M-19's top leader last year.

The leftist group had signed the truce in 1984, but a few months later resumed armed strife.

Fayad's successor seems likely to be Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez.

The M-19 was responsible for the bloody assault last year on the Palace of Justice, where more than 100 people were killed as troops intervened to dislodge the guerrillas.

Fayad's death came one day after clashes that caused 30 deaths near Cali, in the south of the country, and less than a week after legislative elections.

The M-19 came to life in 1970 to protest against alleged fraud in elections that year, and since then has carried out a series of attacks. They included stealing arms from army depots and abducting several foreign diplomats during the occupation of the Dominican Republic's embassy in Bogota.

Its most prominent leaders and founders, including Jaime Bateman, Ivan Marino Ospina, Carlos Toledo, Andres Almarales and Conrado Marin have all died in road accidents or in clashes with the army.



## Former Kenyan leader's son loses freedom plan

NAIROBI (R) — The jailed son of former Kenyan Vice-President Oginga Odinga, Raila Odinga, Friday lost a plea for his release from prison where he has been detained since being charged with treason in 1982. The charge was dropped in March 1983, but he has remained in jail ever since in connection with an abortive coup by junior air force officers the previous August. The coup was crushed within hours by the army. Acting Chief Justice C.B. Madan rejected Odinga's application, and quoted the detainee as saying in an earlier statement that he was satisfied there were sufficient grounds to keep him in detention.

## 1,300 thieves return booty in Peking

PEKING (R) — More than 1,300 thieves in Peking banded over stolen cash and goods including 270 bicycles under a police amnesty. The Liberation daily reported. The newspaper said police announced on March 1 that thieves could turn in their loot by March 10 and escape punishment. A total of 1,374 people, many brought to police stations by their fathers, wives or the whole family, returned money and property worth more than 500,000 yuan (\$156,000). The goods, later returned at a big ceremony to shops and households, also included more than 2,000 watches.

## Anti-AIDS drug shows no side effects

LONDON (R) — A drug to fight AIDS developed by the U.S. subsidiary of a British pharmaceutical company produced no harmful side effects in trial patients, a report in a medical journal said Friday.

The report in the Lancet said 19 U.S. patients took the drug, developed by Burroughs Wellcome PLC, for six weeks without adverse effects. The company now plans to expand the tests by attempting to cure AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) victims with the drug, known as Compound S. Two hundred Americans suffering from AIDS, which destroys the body's immune system, will take the drug for six months to establish whether it stops the fatal virus from multiplying in the human body. Laboratory experiments have indicated that the drug could halt the growth of the virus, a company spokesman said.

Fun-loving lionesses put on pill

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore's population control programme has moved into the zoo to stop lionesses from breeding too often. Five lionesses at the Zoological Gardens have been put on the pill after the lion population grew from two to 16, including the recent arrival of two more cubs, zoo officials said Friday. "We cannot keep a big group because of space problems and they tend to fight during the mating season. Also feeding these big meat-eaters is expensive," an official said. The zoo has so far donated a pair of lions each to a circus operator, to zoos in China, Malaysia, Indonesia and a crocodile farm in Thailand. Ten others have died over the years.

## Police seek Peter Seller's daughter

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. drug agents have searched Los Angeles for Victoria Sellers, the daughter of the late British actor Peter Sellers, who has been charged in connection with a major cocaine distribution ring. Ms. Sellers, a 23-year-old actress and model who appears nude in the current issue of Playboy magazine, lived in Hollywood and was still believed to be in the area, according to Dwight McKinney, a spokesman for the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration. "We haven't located her yet," he said. Ms. Sellers, her boyfriend Reed Wallace, 30, and four others were indicted by a federal grand jury in New Jersey. All but Ms. Sellers have been arrested. McKinney said. Prosecutors said Ms. Sellers, a London native, shared an apartment with Wallace and took part in a ring that imported one million dollars worth of cocaine a week into Los Angeles from Colombia and then distributed it around the country. The indictment said the ring used violence to obtain cocaine and to collect on drug debts.

## Kohl backs closer German ties

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl Friday issued an appeal for improved relations between East and West Germany amid growing doubts that Communist leader Erich Honecker will pay a long-awaited visit to Bonn this year.

In his annual report on the "state of the nation in divided Germany," Dr. Kohl said the U.S.-Soviet summit in Geneva last year had sent signals for a broader dialogue between East and West which both German states should heed.

"Both states in Germany have the duty to make an active contribution to East-West relations by extending their cooperation," Dr. Kohl said.

He made no direct reference to Mr. Honecker's visit but said he hoped the Geneva meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would have a direct effect on the way East-West German relations develop.

However his speech, delivered

in the Bonn Parliament, coincided with a rash of pessimistic reports about the prospects for the first trip to West Germany by an East German leader.

Newspapers said there were growing fears in the government that the Soviet leadership was blocking Mr. Honecker's travel plans and he would be forced to postpone the visit.

East German politburo member Horst Sindermann said after talks with Dr. Kohl last month that Mr. Honecker, who has twice postponed the journey since it was first planned in 1983, would go ahead with it in 1986.

But leading newspapers, including the weekly Die Zeit and daily Die Welt, said there were signs Mr. Gorbachev had voiced his opposition at a meeting with Mr. Honecker in Moscow two weeks ago.

Official sources said the government had been discouraged by the Moscow meeting, which was followed by a communiqué cri-

ticising West Germany's support for what was described as a destructive U.S. policy towards Eastern Europe.

But they said they were still awaiting firm indications from East Berlin on Mr. Honecker's plans.

Both German leaders will be in Stockholm Saturday for the funeral of murdered Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, but Dr. Kohl's Spokesman Friedhelm Ost said Friday there were no plans at present for them to meet.

West European diplomats said that if there were no talks between them in Sweden it could be an indication that Mr. Honecker was in difficulty over his Bonn trip and wanted to avoid contact at the present time.

Die Welt said Friday that Bonn believed Mr. Honecker was fighting hard to defend his travel plans and that if he did make the trip to Bonn it would take place in July.

## Queen returns to London

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth returned from an Australasian tour Friday to media speculation that she will be asked to announce the engagement of her second son, Prince Andrew.

The Daily Express newspaper said she would hold a "summit" meeting at Windsor Castle this weekend with Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson to discuss their reputed romance.

The queen and her husband, Prince Philip, returned Friday from a 26-day tour of Nepal, Australia and New Zealand.

The Express said the young couple considered themselves engaged but the queen was recommending a "cooling off" period while they made sure they wished to marry.

"It is their future happiness she is worried about," the paper quoted a member of the royal household as saying.

Buckingham Palace said: "We have absolutely no comment."

Queen Elizabeth flew home after her tour of Australia and New Zealand marked by flying eggs, an attempted bosing down, and bare breasts and buttocks.

Her husband Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, also got a taste of republican sentiment Thursday when he unveiled a bust at an Adelaide university.

"Long live the Republic of Australia," yelled one student from the middle of a row of republican flags.

"Good idea," the prince shot back.

In New Zealand — which she visited after a trip to Nepal — Maori protesters threw eggs at the queen, hitting her with one of them. A man, in a traditional Maori insult, dropped his trousers and flashed his tattooed bottom at her.

## Lawyers punch, drench Zia aide

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Opposition lawyers punched and poured cold water over a former general and aide to President Mohammed Zia Ul Haq, forcing the aide to cancel a speech before the bar association here, witnesses said.

The witnesses said about 40 riot policemen outside the hall did not intervene and laughed as the general, dripping with water, was driven from the hall. The lawyers accused retired Lt.-Gen. Faiz Ali Chishti of complicity in the 1979 execution of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who had been toppled two years earlier in a coup by Gen. Zia.

## Rebels assault police posts in Lima

LIMA (R) — Leftist guerrillas dynamited at least three police posts and firebombed two stores, one of them just a block from the presidential palace, during a blackout in the Peruvian capital, police said Friday.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The attacks, shortly before midnight, brought troops and tanks out in the streets after the 40-minute blackout, eyewitnesses said.

Firemen quickly brought the blazes under control in the two stores.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but police believed either the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels or the leftist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement was responsible.

Over 7,000 people have died in Sendero's five-year insurgency. No deaths have yet been blamed on Tupac Amaru assaults.

A power company communiqué blamed the blackout on a guerrilla attack on power pylons in the central Peruvian Andes.

The assaults came only hours before Presidential Alan Garcia

was due to leave for Buenos Aires to begin a three-day visit to Argentina.

Mr. Garcia last Feb. 7 had clamped Lima under a state of emergency and curfew to curb the spread of the Sendero guerrillas from the Andes to the capital.

Sendero's last wave of assaults here on Feb. 21 included the bombing of six foreign embassies and 13 other targets in the capital. A fire in the shape of a hammer-and-sickle blazed on a hillside.

Police have blamed Sendero for blacking out the capital more than 15 times since 1982.

## Pakistan to free jailed poppy growers

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Authorities have agreed to free 130 opium poppy growers arrested during a crackdown on crops and compensate families of seven farmers killed in the operation.

North West Frontier Province (NWFP) Governor Abdul Ghafoor Hoti said Thursday the government would release the men arrested on March 8 when paramilitary units destroyed crops in the Gadoon area along the Indus River.

It would also pay compensation to families of the victims and treat the injured at government expense, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.

The promise, made at an assembly of tribal elders from the Gadoon area 80 kilometres north-

west of Islamabad, was an important concession to the growers following the unexpectedly violent operation to destroy the new poppy crop.

Opium poppy is one of the few crops that can grow on the barren hills of the North West Frontier. Farmers accuse the government of embezzling foreign anti-drug funds meant to help them switch to other cash crops.

Mr. Hoti also offered tribal elders large supplies of wheat and sugar at subsidised prices if they destroyed the rest of the new crop, APP reported without noting the elders' response.

As part of the government's renewed anti-drug drive, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo Thursday met a group of 15 representatives from Chitral who

promised to help stop poppy growing there.

Mr. Junejo promised the group that Chitral, a mountainous frontier area north of Peshawar, would be included in Islamabad's crop substitution programmes.

Opposition politicians have criticised the government for the Gadoon action at daily rallies in NWFP, accusing it of murdering poor farmers under orders from the United States.

The U.S. finances Gadoon's main programme to substitute other cash crops for opium, which is the raw material for heroin.

With help from the U.S. and the United Nations, Pakistan's crop substitution drive slashed domestic poppy production from 800 tonnes in 1979 to 45 tonnes last year.

## Muslims stage protest march in troubled Malaysian state

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (R) — Hundreds of chanting Muslims marched from Kota Kinabalu's main mosque to the house of a top opposition leader Friday amid continuing tension in the east Malaysian state of Sabah.

Witnesses said about 400 men and women shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) poured out to a main road in the state capital after Friday prayers but were stopped by police armed with tear gas, batons and shields.

The marchers were allowed to continue after agreeing to be orderly and not disrupt traffic.

Two women were killed in an arson attack and four people were hurt in nine bomb blasts in the past two days in Sabah as Malay Muslim opposition supporters stepped up efforts to oust the ruling mainly Christian, non-Malay party.

Furious Muslims stoned cars Thursday and had to be held back from marching on a Roman Cat-

holic Church after finding crosses painted on mosque walls.

No one has claimed responsibility, but Muslims blamed members of the Partai Bersatu Sabah (PBS) of Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad has denied federal opposition allegations of collusion between his Malay-dominated government and the Berjaya and United Sabah National Organisation (USNO) parties to oust Mr. Pairin.

Information Minister Datuk Rais Yatim said Friday the Malaysian cabinet was expected to discuss the situation in Sabah at its weekly meeting next Wednesday.

Mr. Mahathir has said he will not intervene unless things get out of hand. He, Mr. Pairin and Sabah's police chief have said independently that the police are in full control.

Mr. Pairin dissolved Sabah's state assembly two weeks ago to hold fresh elections after a year of political wrangling with the opposition brought government to a halt.

The high court reserved judgment Thursday on an opposition writ challenging the dissolution. Three thousand USNO supporters demonstrated against the PBS outside the court.

A verdict is due on April 15 on a case brought by USNO President Tun Mustapha Harun challenging Mr. Pairin's rule.

Friday's March ended at the veteran politician's house where the marchers condemned the PBS as anti-Islamic.

In the city centre life was back to normal except around the mosque where shops were closed and security was tight, residents said. Business had closed and people stayed at home after the bomb blasts spread panic.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam has withdrawn his resignation as deputy president of Malaysia's dominant Malay-based party, aides said Friday.

But they told Reuters that Mr. Musa would not withdraw his resignations from his cabinet posts as deputy prime minister and home (interior) minister, submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad.

Aides said Mr. Musa, 51, resigned because of policy and personality clashes with Mr. Mahathir's supporters.

His resignation further depressed the country's ailing stock exchange which has been recording new lows since the end of February.

Mr. Musa's shock resignations threatened a split in the United Malay National Organisation, the largest Malay political party in the 11-party multiracial National Front Coalition.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### DOING GYPSY ROSE PROUD

Both vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ 7542  
♥ 13  
♦ QJ1095  
♣ 62  
WEST  
♠ J9  
♥ QJ108  
♦ K862  
♣ J94  
EAST  
♠ Q1086  
♥ 954  
♦ 73  
♣ Q1087

The bidding:  
South West North East  
3 NT Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

A casual glance at today's diagram might make you think that there is no entry to the dummy. Wrong! There is—if you can enlist some aid from the enemy.

The auction was simple enough. South had 25 points, a balanced hand and all four aces, so he got the hand off his chest with one bid. North had nowhere to go.

West led the top of his heart sequence, and declarer was not entrapped with the dummy that hit the table. He could set up the table's diamonds, but there was no entry to cash them barring the unlikely

possibility of a defender having a singleton king of diamonds. Obviously, declarer would have to enlist the aid of his opponents. If West had started with precisely four hearts and four or more diamonds, declarer might be able to strip him of his exit cards in the black suits and make the hand via a throw-in.

The play required considerable care. Working on the assumption that West had exactly four hearts, declarer's first hurdle was to prevent East from winning the third round of the suit. To accomplish that, declarer ducked the first heart. He won the heart continuation, and then had to decide in which black suit West was most likely to have three cards. Since he had fewer clubs than spades in his side's combined holding, declarer opted to duck a club.

West won and persevered with hearts, but declarer was now ready to execute his end play. He cashed the ace-king in both black suits, then took the ace of diamonds and continued with a low diamond. West could win the king and cash his last heart, but then he had to lead a diamond and present dummy with the fulfilling tricks.